

1550

Saturday July 27 1996

Abkhaz D 0.50	Algeria D 0.50	Angola P 2.00	Armenia P 1.00	Australia P 1.00	Austria P 1.00	Bahrain D 0.50	Bangladesh T 1.00	Belarus P 1.00	Belgium P 1.00	Belize D 0.50	Bhutan P 1.00	Bolivia P 1.00	Bosnia D 0.50	Brazil P 1.00	Bulgaria P 1.00	Canada P 1.00	Chad P 1.00	China P 1.00	Croatia P 1.00	Cuba P 1.00	Cyprus P 1.00	Denmark P 1.00	Egypt P 1.00	Finland P 1.00	France P 1.00	Germany P 1.00	Ghana P 1.00	Greece P 1.00	Guatemala P 1.00	Honduras P 1.00	India P 1.00	Indonesia P 1.00	Italy P 1.00	Jamaica P 1.00	Japan P 1.00	Kazakhstan P 1.00	Korea P 1.00	Latvia P 1.00	Lithuania P 1.00	Madagascar P 1.00	Malaysia P 1.00	Maldives P 1.00	Mali P 1.00	Mexico P 1.00	Moldova P 1.00	Morocco P 1.00	Netherlands P 1.00	New Zealand P 1.00	Nigeria P 1.00	North Macedonia P 1.00	Paraguay P 1.00	Peru P 1.00	Poland P 1.00	Portugal P 1.00	Romania P 1.00	Russia P 1.00	Saudi Arabia P 1.00	Senegal P 1.00	Serbia P 1.00	Slovakia P 1.00	Slovenia P 1.00	South Africa P 1.00	Spain P 1.00	Sweden P 1.00	Switzerland P 1.00	Taiwan P 1.00	Tanzania P 1.00	Turkey P 1.00	Ukraine P 1.00	USA P 1.00	Zimbabwe P 1.00
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The Guardian

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,616

Outlook

The rise of the state

Joanna Coles meets Jacqui Lait

Olympics



Competitors in Atlanta yesterday begin the 20km walk, the first athletics event of the Olympics. The race was won by Jefferson Perez of Ecuador. Olympic reports, pages 10-12. PHOTOGRAPH DOUG MILLS

Croats 'raped British soldiers'

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

BRITISH soldiers in former Yugoslavia have been warned to take extra precautions against the threat of male rape after a series of reported incidents in the Croatian port of Split on the Adriatic coast.

As part of a standard introductory briefing, British troops arriving on their first tour at a Nato logistics base in Split this week were warned of the possibility of male rape and instructed not to leave base alone on evenings off.

"There have been a series of male rapes in recent weeks. This is just to let you know. Don't take any chances," a British military nurse told the newcomers.

A spokesman for the Nato-led peace implementation force (I-For) said there had been only one case of a "possible sexual assault" on a British serviceman in the Split area. The spokesman, Major Edmund McMahon Turner said he thought the briefers had exaggerated the threat "to put the wind up new arrivals".

Split serves as a supply base for I-For operations in Bosnia. It is the headquarters for hundreds of British signals and engineering troops. The port city, built around a 3rd century Roman palace, is the hub of a string of resorts stretching along the coast.

Maj McMahon Turner said a British soldier had reported being assaulted by two apparently Croatian men about a month ago after an evening out in Split. "There was the possibility of some form of sexual assault," he said, adding that it was not possible to give further details while the local police carried out an investigation. He said there was no medical evidence of rape.

A British soldier who claimed to be a close colleague of a male-rape victim insisted that he knew of three

'A triumph for justice'

Bridgewater Four appeal: Howard relents after campaign lasting 18 years

John Mullan

MICHAEL Howard, the Home Secretary, signalled a surprise change of heart yesterday when he announced he was referring to the Court of Appeal the convictions of four men jailed for the killing of newsboy Carl Bridgewater in 1978.

Staffordshire police, which led the investigation, and the Director of Public Prosec-

hearing may not take place until next year.

Ann Whelan, 53, mother of Michael Hickey, said: "I had come to believe that the Home Office was not interested in right and wrong. This day is a victory and a triumph for justice. Everyone will see these men, after 18 years, totally exonerated."

Jim Nichol, the men's lawyer since 1983, was overwhelmed. "We have always kept a brave face but we have had our dark days and there have been tears. This has been a long hard slog."

The men's previous appeal lasted 41 days before it was rejected in March 1989. A welter of fresh evidence has since been gathered, although Kenneth Clarke, Mr Howard's predecessor, proclaimed the convictions safe and satisfactory in February 1988.

Carl Bridgewater, 13, a newspaper delivery boy, was shot when he interrupted a burglary at Yew Tree Farm, Wordsley, Staffordshire, in September 1978. Had he lived, he would have been 31. Brian Bridgewater, his father, said three months ago: "Just occasionally, you can't help but think, I wonder what the boy would be doing now?"



Jury foreman Tim O'Malley: certain of men's innocence

The evidence

- The prosecution case in 1978:
 - Vincent Hickey's incriminating remarks
 - Fat Molloy's statement
 - Prisoners' testimony of overheard conversations with accused on remand
- The appeal in 1996:
 - Molloy's statement was concocted, according to four experts and a forensic psychiatrist commissioned for the Home Secretary
 - Molloy was held for 56 hours without a solicitor
 - Detention records show discrepancies with detectives' testimony
 - Two jury members believe the men are innocent
 - Fingerprint evidence was withheld from defence
 - At least five prosecution witnesses have recanted

His appeal will be addressed with the others.

Molloy received a lesser sentence after making a statement admitting he was at the farm when Carl was shot, but claiming he was upstairs.

The Molloy confession is at the centre of the referral. Four language experts back Molloy's claim that it was a police fabrication. A forensic psychiatrist called in on the Home Secretary's behalf agrees.

An internal Home Office document, published in the Guardian two years ago, shows officials knew he had been held unlawfully for 56 hours without access to a solicitor. He said he was assaulted.

What appears to have swung the balance is the persistence of Michael Chance, the lawyer in charge of the prosecution. He has written several times to Mr Howard since December, admitting that he should get his Harrier.

That evidence was released only in 1994 when Mr Nichol secured it through a High Court ruling. It shows police found two unidentified finger-

prints on Carl's bike, which had been tossed into a pig sty, probably by his killer.

Mr Nichol's trump card, though, will be the appearance of jury members. The appeal court's test is whether new evidence might have swayed the jury at trial. Tim O'Malley, now 48, the foreman, and Lucinda Graham, 38, are both now convinced of the men's innocence. Two more jury members are said to think the same.

Fight for truth, page 2

Excuse me, I've just come to claim my free jump jet

Ian Katz in New York

WHEN Pepsi's adman dreamed up the idea of offering a Harrier jump-jet as a spoof promotion, the company's executives roared with laughter. "We all looked at it and said it's a great joke," said PepsiCo spokesman Brad Shaw.

But John Leonard, a business student aged 21, reacted differently when the advertisement was first screened in the Seattle area last winter. He and five investors wrote Pepsi a cheque for \$700,000.50. Pepsi a cheque for \$450,000 and demanded the 7 million Pepsi Stuff points supposedly

required to claim the Harrier. Pepsi promptly returned the cheque, announcing it had no intention of giving Mr Leonard a \$24-million military jet. "Everyone in the country saw this commercial and laughed," Mr Shaw said. "This guy hired a lawyer."

The advert in question shows a teenager modelling a selection of merchandise available as part of the Pepsi Stuff promotion. At the end a Harrier lands outside a school and the boy emerges from the cockpit to declare: "I sure beats taking the bus to school."

The rules of the promotion allowed customers to accumulate Pepsi Stuff points by purchasing



A jump jet for seven million Pepsi Stuff points: "We all thought it was a great joke"

lecting labels from Pepsi drinks or buying them directly for 10 cents each. Although the advert stated that the jet was redeemable for 7 million points, Pepsi insists it was clearly tongue in cheek.

Mr Leonard disagrees: "I want the prize I'm entitled to."



They're not living up to their end of the bargain."

The dispute over Pepsi's sense of humour now moves to a New York courtroom

where the company is asking a federal judge to throw out Mr Leonard's claim as "trivialous".

But the student's lawyers are promising a fight. "We're talking integrity in advertising," Larry Schantz said. "They advertised the promotion and our client complied, and he should get his Harrier."

When the company began screening the advert nationally in April, the number of points required to claim the fighter was increased to 70 million. Pepsi insists the change was made before it received Mr Leonard's claim.

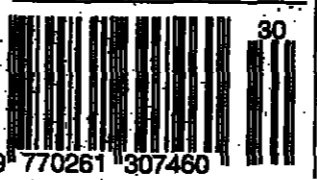
Mr Shaw said there are no plans to pull the advert. "It's very funny."



Ever wanted to do a parachute jump? Yes! - then call the number below to find out how YOU can make a thrilling 10,000 feet freefall parachute jump in aid of The National Deaf Children's Society. No experience is required as full training is given and if you raise the minimum amount of sponsorship you will receive your jump for FREE!

Call NOW for your FREE information pack on
0990 222 511
This is not a premium line - calls are charged at the normal BT national rate
The National Deaf Children's Society - Charity No 1016532

Inside	Britain	World News	Finance	Sport
4	7	22	12	30



2 CHRONICLE/NEWS

'Raw deal' stirs passions on Isle of Wight

Sarah Boseley on an attempt by islanders, lumped in with the affluent South-east, to attract government money by a poll on cutting loose from the mainland

FOR all the tranquility of its bucket and spade beaches, rolling fields and neat hanglows, passions are running high on the Isle of Wight this summer in the run-up to a poll over independence from the UK.

The Liberal Democrats who control the island's council say they are getting a raw deal from England, which has called the shots ever since it bought Wight in the 12th century from an aristocratic family, Morris Barton, the council leader who proposes cutting loose from the mainland once more, complains that the Government lumps the islanders in with the affluent South-east for economic purposes, depriving them of the subsidies and grants handed out to just about every other island in the UK and Europe.

"What we are really after is enterprise zone status within the UK. Every statistic we have shows us that we are worse off than areas in the UK that are getting that sort of status," he said. He claimed it would bring in millions of pounds to spend on regeneration and incentives to businesses to relocate on the island.

If they cannot have a fair deal, Mr Barton says, he is prepared for the island to go it alone. Like the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, the Isle of Wight could become a tax-free haven, he believes, attracting millionaires. "We have got to pursue every avenue to find some way of overcoming this blockade," he said.

"We have people in the City who are looking into it for us, and a director of the Bank of Bermuda is coming over." Taking Westminster on is not proving easy. The Treasury has just forced the island to withdraw an ecu token it had minted for barrier to some local shops. This was too much like a rival currency. The proposed referendum on devolution has also been scotched.

Councillors were advised they need Parliament's approval, so a Mori poll is being commissioned for September instead. It will put several questions, including one on devolution and another on a fixed link — a bridge or tunnel — to the mainland. It is the islanders' misfortune that they look, to the holidaymaking hordes, a healthy and happy crew. The island has neither inner-city slums nor the bleak climate of the remote Orkneys to attract compassion. It has pleasant villas, tidy gardens (nearly a third of the population are over 60) and little crime. But it has the second lowest gross domestic product in the country, after South Glamorgan. Unemployment dips in the summer, but is consistently high. It has twice the rate of youth unemployment of the South-east. Those who have got jobs are badly paid. Last year, average male wages were 20 per cent below the national average. While pensioners move in, young people leave in droves.

Islanders don't deny the problems, but are split over the solution. Many sympathise with the Tory MP Barry Field, who has ridiculed devolution with a banana republic without bananas. A midsummer Wight's dream. "But Mr Barton insists he speaks from the heart. This is for future generations — for my grandchildren and other people's. I have got three and I hope they will have a choice of living here or somewhere else."

"My family and my wife's family have lived here since 1300. If we aren't given the choice, we will become this very elderly population of people who haven't got roots here at all. This will be a Costa Brava-type resettlement area."

The island's Chamber of Commerce is wary of talk of tax havens. Peter Conway, its treasurer and the senior manager of Lloyd's Bank, said: "We've got all four clearing banks here, with close links to the Bank of England, and I think I can safely say if hot money is flying around we don't want any of it."



The flag outside the Isle of Wight's biggest employer makes no secret of where its loyalty lies

PHOTOGRAPH GARRY WEASER

Mr Barton knows the biggest obstacle to his ideas is the nature of most islanders. They don't want to change links to the mainland, voting in past polls against it by 70-30. As for devolution, out on the streets of Newport, Mr Barton's name raises only incredulous laughter.

"All those that I know are saying that Morris Barton is out of his tree and ought to see a psychiatrist," said Barry Banks, a pensioner who has lived on the island for 24 years.

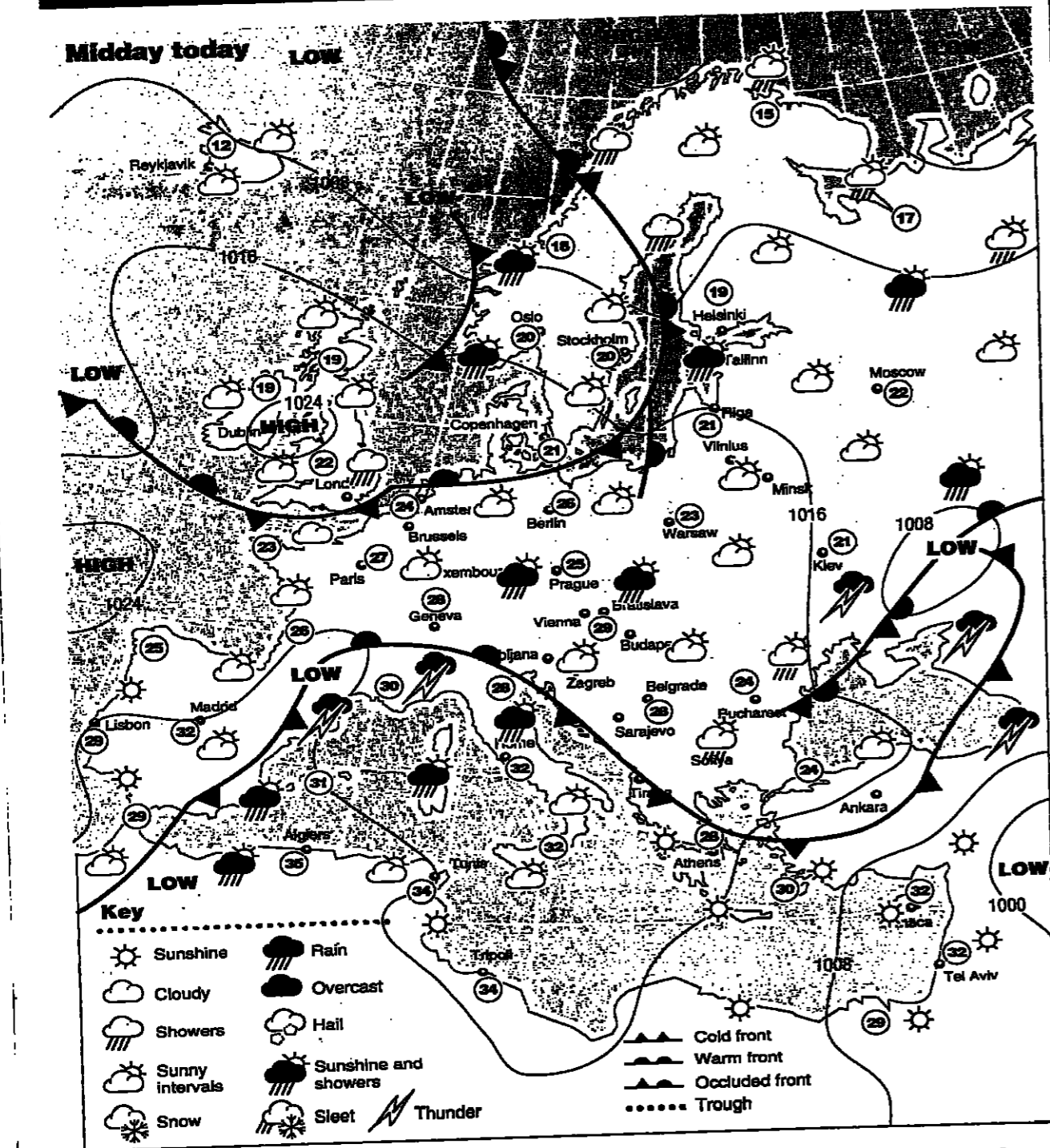
"The idea of devolution is crazy and I don't know any one who doesn't think he's a nutter. If he ever becomes El Presidente, I'm back to the mainland."

"Words fail me," said Jean Hedgley. "It's absolutely stupid. We've lost so much — all our grants from the Government and our financial help. I don't want to change my nationality. I'm British."

"I don't think too many people think it is a great idea," said Howard Kalley, a supermarket manager. "The next time for it. And once fixed link the island would definitely vote no because they think they will become a suburb of Portsmouth."

So those who go there year after year, like National Heritage Secretary Victoria Boleyn and Tory MP Sir Northwood, who both have holiday homes on the island, will as like as not find the drawbridge still down and the island not much changed from the days when Queen Victoria escaped there to her country retreat.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities table with columns for city, sun, rain, clouds, etc.

Around the world table with columns for city, sun, rain, clouds, etc.

European weather outlook. Showery rain over Sweden and Denmark should be replaced by brighter skies later today with some sunny spells...

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1: 7.00am News. 7.15am News. 7.30am News. 8.00am News. 8.30am News. 9.00am News. 9.30am News. 10.00am News. 10.30am News. 11.00am News. 11.30am News. 12.00am News.

Television and radio — Sunday

BBC 1: 7.00am News. 7.15am News. 7.30am News. 8.00am News. 8.30am News. 9.00am News. 9.30am News. 10.00am News. 10.30am News. 11.00am News. 11.30am News. 12.00am News.

Various small advertisements and notices, including 'Judg', 'Missi', 'Meaneat', and 'T'.

'Some people keep trying to pretend that ball tampering doesn't go on — and it has gone on for as long as I can remember. You tell me someone who has kept to the speed limit all his life. We are all a bit naughty and knock on over 30 miles an hour when we shouldn't'

— Geoffrey Boycott in court yesterday



Judge raises finger to expansive Boycott

Vivek Chaudhary
WITH two of the world's greatest all-rounders and one of England's finest batsmen in court, and a posse of eminent cricket commentators milling around, there was perhaps only one man who could have up-staged them. Enter Geoffrey Boycott into court 13 of the High Court yesterday, wearing a garish green and sleeveless shirt and holding a cricket shoe.

from the Test match at Lord's where I was expecting to be commenting," he said to Mr Justice French. After giving his full address in Yorkshire, including post code, he added: "That's in England."

The two are suing Imran over an interview in India Today magazine which quoted him as saying they were racists, uneducated, and lacking in class. Botham is also suing Imran over an article in the Sun which he claimed accused him of ball tampering. Imran, who denies libel, claims he was misquoted and never called Botham a cheat.

Close to object." The proceedings threatened to degenerate into farce as Mr Carman asked if Boycott agreed with Close's comment: "The game first, team second and players third." He said he did not understand the comment.

The judge intervened: "It appears to me that this witness's evidence is in danger of getting out of hand and I think that having been examined, cross-examined and re-examined, he should now leave the witness box."

Boycott, looking rather sheepish, made his way out of court and back to Lord's. The hearing continues.

IMF backs Budget free of tax cuts

Larry Elliott and Michael White

THE Treasury's bid to put the squeeze on spending ministers this autumn was given weighty backing yesterday by an International Monetary Fund report on the British economy, which called for expenditure cuts and no Budget giveaways.

With the clamour on the Conservative right mounting for income tax reductions in November, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke took the unprecedented step of publishing the results of IMF's 10-day investigation into the UK conducted this month.

Mr Clarke — forced to deny a report in the Sun that he had already decided on a 2 pence cut in the basic rate to 22 pence, costing £3 billion — said he agreed with the IMF's recommendation that government borrowing needed to be reduced more rapidly.

While stressing that the structural reforms of the past 15 years offer the "genuine prospect of improvement in the UK's growth performance over the medium term", the report also urges Mr Clarke to act against tax exemptions. These, it says, have "turned out much more expensive than anticipated".

There is a nominal 4.4 per cent increase in public spending next year built into the current projections, only 2.5 per cent of which will be absorbed by inflation, lower than expected. Treasury officials hope to claw back the remaining 2 per cent.

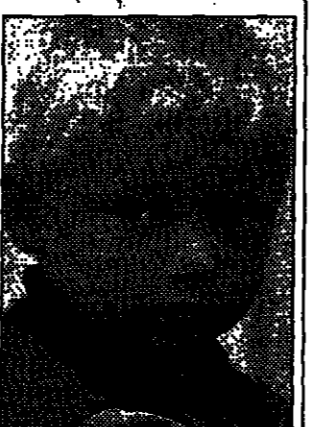
Missing mother found

Alex Solice
THE missing mother of the boy found abandoned in a Bourne-mouth park was found yesterday more than 100 miles away in Eastbourne.



Julie Lane and her abandoned son, Steven, aged four

and chatty and full of talk about seeing the sea and going in police cars. So far there has been no ill effects.



When Steven was found, police expressed concern for Miss Lane, as she was said to be a caring mother who doted on her child. They believed she was suffering from emotional stress.

British troops in Croatia face threat of male rape

continued from page 1
cases in the past two months. He said his friend had been raped at gunpoint by a gang of Croatian men after a night on the town.

'Meanest mothers in North' shoot rival biker in prison cell

Jon Hanley in Helsinki
THE latest victim of a splintering turf war between Nordic biker gangs was recovering in a Danish hospital yesterday after unknown assailants broke into his prison cell, fired 25 shots at him and then lobbed in a hand grenade as they left.

mark, Norway and Sweden have marked a sudden escalation in the two-year feud between Hell's Angels and Bandidos clans, which has left six men dead and at least 20 wounded.

Police are baffled about what to do next. "We have a problem," a Copenhagen CID spokesman said. "Infiltrating these gangs is impossible. If you ban them they just rename themselves. And a lot of people think, if these guys want to blast each other to bits, why not let them? The trouble is, sooner or later someone innocent will get hurt."

"Joenske" Nielsen was attacked in the early hours of Thursday. He was serving a 16-year sentence for a murder committed in 1988 during the last great Nordic biker war, which killed 13 people.

"I've been married 22 years, have no children and I have very little maternal instinct!" She laughs uproariously as she announces these facts. "We decided we had other things to do."
Joanna Coles interviews Jacqui Lait

Outlook page 17



WHAT LITTLE TRAFFIC there is in Lynchburg, Tennessee can be brought to a standstill by a Mallard hen.

This one came from over by our limestone cave spring, where Jack Daniel discovered water so right for whiskey making (it's iron-free), he built his distillery alongside. Of course, that meant sharing the property with a few ducks. But to have a source of water this treasured, we've always been glad to stop for friends who value it as much as we do.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Royal photo condom ad withdrawn

A POSTER campaign by the British Safety Council using a wedding photo of the Prince and Princess of Wales to promote safe sex has been withdrawn following the death of the council's director-general. The board of governors said yesterday it was not prepared to support the poster, and apologised to the royal family.

The campaign featured the picture of the royal couple kissing on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, with the caption: "Appearances can be deceptive. Use a Journey Condom."

It was intended to promote National Condom Week and was the brainchild of the council's founder and director-general, James Tye.

BSC chairman Douglas Latta said: "Sadly James Tye passed away on Sunday. This was his last campaign. In his absence the board of governors feels it really cannot support such a controversial poster. We obviously overstepped the mark this time and will not be sending out any more posters."

Palace officials complained to the Advertising Standards Council about the poster, which first appeared last week, but just days ago the BSC was refusing to apologise.

Mr Tye died on Sunday, aged 74. He leaves his wife Rosalie and a son and daughter. *Obituary, page 28*

Trawler deaths investigation

AN investigation will begin this weekend to discover why three trawlermen died in the hold of their ship. Operators of the Atlantic Princess, a Hull-registered vessel, want to know why the men collapsed and died as they cleaned out part of the fish handling area.

The men were named yesterday as Alan Fairburn, aged 30, married with two children, from Hull, and Dumhazen Jaap Bruin, 34, and Arle van der Plas, 28. The ship was fishing off the coast of Mauritania, West Africa, when tragedy struck.

Five crewmen rushed to help but found they could hardly breathe in the stinking, confined area. They had to be sent ashore for treatment when they collapsed after dragging the bodies out of the area.

Stewart Harper of the vessel's British agent, Vallant Trawlers Ltd, said: "We don't know what happened, maybe there just wasn't any oxygen down there. It was very hot."

The stricken crewmen have recovered in hospital in the port of Nouadhibou, Mauritania. They and their colleagues are being flown home while accident investigators inspect the ship, which is on her way to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands for the inquiry.

Duchess seeks damages

THE Duchess of York was at the centre yesterday of a High Court action seeking damages and a court order to prevent publication of details of her charge card use. In a writ issued with American Express against News Group (UK) Ltd, she is seeking an order banning publication of details of her American Express account.

The writ, issued on Wednesday at the High Court in London, seeks injunctions restraining News Group from disclosing confidential information about her American Express account and the payment of money by her to American Express.

In particular, the writ seeks an order banning News Group from disclosing any information taken from her June or July statements and any cheques drawn in payment of the outstanding balance. She and American Express are also asking for damages for breach of confidence and further orders that News Group hand over any statements, cheques and other relevant documents in their possession.

Man charged over explosives

A MAN is to appear before magistrates in Bristol this morning on three explosive charges. Barry Horne, aged 44, of no fixed address, was charged last night with three offences following the arrest of a man on Thursday evening by detectives in Broadmead shopping centre, in the centre of Bristol.

Horne faces two charges of acting with intent to cause explosions. The offences relate to the BHS store and a Cancer research charity shop. A third charge alleges he had possession or control of explosive substances. All the charges allege explosives "of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious damage to property".

Detectives from the South East Regional Crime Squad arrested the man in Holfords store in Broadmead. They later revealed that two other explosive devices were found in BHS and the charity shop.

The arrest followed a long surveillance operation investigating the activities of an animal rights organisation.

MPs predict May 1 election

THE most favoured date for the next general election is May 1, 1997, according to MPs. A Harris poll conducted for the Parliamentary House Magazine shows 49 per cent of MPs believe that is the date the Prime Minister will choose. The next most popular date is May 8, selected by 16 per cent of MPs.

Harris asked 151 backbench MPs on the Harris Parliamentary Panel which date they would choose out of eight offered to them.



John Salmon, who spent up to 60 hours a week at Hammersmith public library reading law reports and legal texts as his case neared trial

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Civil law 'revolution' plan

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

Woolf report's key points

A BLUEPRINT for a revolution in the English civil justice system to curb delays, cut costs and make it easier for individuals to enforce their rights was unveiled yesterday by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls.

The far-reaching package of reforms, which follows a two-year investigation by the former law lord, is the most radical shake-up ever of civil justice in England and Wales and will require a dramatic change in the culture of litigation — taking control of the system away from lawyers and giving it to judges.

The proposals are geared to tackling costs, which Lord Woolf called "the most serious problem besetting our litigation system". Problems arising from excessive costs "contaminate the whole civil justice system," he said. Fear of costs deterred people from litigating, compelled others to settle against their wishes, enabled the powerful to take advantage of the weaker and had an adverse effect on the scope of legal aid.

Key elements of Lord Woolf's "new landscape for civil justice" include hands-on case management by judges, incentives to settle cases early, penalties for dragging them out, and a "fast track" simplified procedure with caps on lawyers's

- A simpler and more accessible system of civil justice.
- Parties will have to co-operate earlier on to facilitate out of court settlement.
- Different ways of dealing with cases depending on value, complexity and importance.
- More certainty about cases' length and cost.
- A fast track for cases up to £10,000, with a cap on lawyers' costs, a standard fee for advocacy at trial, written expert evidence and a maximum of one-day trial.
- Greater equality between parties so wealthy ones cannot take unfair advantage of weaker ones.
- Cases diverted from court if possible and settled through mediation or arbitration.
- Strict timetables and shorter trials.
- Costs incentives and sanctions to foster early settlement.
- In-court advice and assistance services for litigants.
- Plaintiffs to be able to offer to settle cases, with defendants paying extra interest if they reject the offer and the judge awards same or more.



Lord Woolf... his shake-up is geared to tackling costs

Seven-year battle after buying faulty music system 'totally disrupted' composer's career

JOHN Salmon fought a seven-year battle against a finance company, its solicitor and barrister — and won. But the case cost him years of his life and "totally disrupted" his career. So all-consuming did it become that the court awarded him £12,000 for the cost of his time in acting as his own unqualified lawyer, writes Clare Dyer.

His case backs up Lord Woolf's diagnosis of the ills in the current system, under which lawyers dictate the pace of litigation. Had Lord Woolf's reforms been in place, the case would probably have been settled long before trial. In the unlikely event that it had gone to trial, it would have been wound up years earlier.

Mr Salmon, a freelance music producer and composer then living in west London, was sued in 1987 over a credit agreement he had taken out to finance an £1,850 music system. The equipment turned out to be faulty and the shop never supplied him with the correct manuals. After numerous requests, he lost patience and returned the system.

But First Cooperative Finance, part of the Coopera-

five Bank, still sued him to enforce the credit agreement. Mr Salmon, now aged 39, discovered he would have to pay a solicitor £40-£100 plus 50 per cent "uplift" to act for him, so he decided to represent himself. He filed a defence to the claim and counter-claimed for earnings lost through having been sold a faulty system.

The case dragged on for six years, with hearing after hearing. Eventually the shop went out of business and dropped out of the case. But Mr Salmon could not drop it because he would have been liable to pay the costs run up by the company's solicitor and barrister.

As the case neared trial, Mr Salmon was spending up to 60 hours a week at Hammersmith public library, west London, reading law reports and legal texts. He estimates that the time spent on the case cost him £20,000 in earnings.

In 1993, six years after the case started, he was awarded £12,000 for the system cost him. It took another year and another maze of complex procedures before he won his £12,000 costs.

A campaign is launched to win a change in the law as destruction deadline looms

Couple try to adopt an embryo

Madeline Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

A CORNISH couple, outraged by the "recklessness" and "wastage" of in-vitro fertilisation are campaigning to adopt one of the 4,000 frozen embryos before they are destroyed by next Wednesday's deadline.

Stephen and Joanna Thomas, from Redruth, Cornwall, are pressing for reform to the law which insists that embryos can only be "adopted" with the consent of their genetic parents. Hospitals must destroy all embryos which have been stored for more than five years unless they have the consent of its genetic parents to extend the storage under regulations enforced by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Hospitals have failed to make contact with the parents of hundreds of embryos which must therefore be taken out of freeze storage and destroyed.

"I would offer my womb as a safe place, to give them a life. These embryos are lives. I'm surprised more infertile



Stephen and Joanna Thomas, with children Hannah and Simon, protest against the destruction

save human beings from being destroyed," said Professor Jack Scarisbrick, president of Life.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) said donating frozen embryos to volunteering couples without the consent of the genetic parents is illegal.

"As in all medical treatment in Western Europe, consent over your body, your organs and your genetic material is fundamental," said a spokeswoman, Jennifer Woods.

Dr Peter Brinsden of the Bourn Hall clinic, Cambridge, which pioneered IVF, said it would be "totally unethical" to allow embryos to be adopted without the consent of the parents.

Most couples going for IVF prefer to use some of their own genes, and only use donated embryos as a last resort if an infertile couple, such as the Thomases, specifically asked for a donated embryo, the matter would be a clinical decision, added Ms Woods.

In Italy, more than 100 women have volunteered to adopt embryos, according to Catholic anti-abortion groups allied to British Life.

"We have a list of 100 women from this area and we are receiving more requests from women all over Italy who want to adopt an embryo," said Mario Ciampi, chairman of the Centre for Help to Life in the central Italian town of Massa Carrara.

Dr Ciampi has urged the Italian government to put pressure on Britain to stop what he describes as a the massacre. L'Osservatore Romano, this week described as a pre-natal massacre.

16.5T

Nick Hornby on Sunday's TV

Plus a TV critic for every day of the week in the new television guide, tomorrow in **The Observer**

File cl
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File closed on Thames tragedy

Alex Belles

THE Crown Prosecution Service yesterday faced renewed criticism for "bungling" the investigation into the Marchioness disaster after it announced it had closed the file on the tragedy.

Senior CPS lawyers decided there was insufficient evidence to institute any further criminal proceedings in connection with the incident seven years ago, despite a jury verdict last year that the 51 victims were killed unlawfully.

The families of the victims, who have campaigned for prosecutions to be brought against the captain and owners of the Bowbelle, the barge that collided with the pleasure boat, were angry and disappointed at the decision.

Margaret Lockwood Croft, whose son Sean died, said: "The CPS seems to be not about justice, but about damage limitation."

A CPS statement said it had conducted a review of all the evidence presented to last year's inquest and considered written advice from senior Treasury counsel and an independent marine expert.

The way the Government and the CPS dealt with the aftermath of the disaster has long been the subject of controversy. Unlike the Zebrugge ferry captain, the Clapham Junction rail crash and the King's Cross fire, a public inquiry was never instigated.

The captain of the Bowbelle, Douglas Henderson, was prosecuted twice for negligence, but was acquitted

after two juries failed to reach a verdict. Last year's inquest was only granted after lobbying by the Marchioness Action Group.

Louise Christian, a solicitor acting for the victims' families, said: "This decision is immensely disappointing to the families, but is no surprise after nearly seven years of bungling by the CPS."

"The families did not learn all the facts about what happened until the inquest last year. The CPS, however, had access to all the evidence at the outset and the verdict of the inquest jury means that a successful prosecution for manslaughter could have been brought."

She called for public inquiries into all disasters to be a statutory right.

Simon Hughes MP, whose Southwark and Bermondsey constituency includes the part of the Thames where the accident took place, said the authorities had dealt with the whole affair in a "thoroughly unprofessional way."

He said: "First the emergency services cannot arrive on time. Next the DOT ignores calls for a public inquiry. Now the CPS is dropping the case despite the fact the second inquest returned an unlawful killing verdict."

The shadow transport minister, Graham Allen, said: "The families of those lost in the Marchioness accident are right to feel let down. The CPS, having delayed the decision for a year and a half, have now rejected the unanimous verdict of the jury of unlawful killing."

"Until there has been a public inquiry this case will remain unresolved."

Marchioness aftermath

August 20, 1989: Marchioness sinks after collision with Bowbelle; 51 people die.
August 22-25 1991: Inquests opened and adjourned.
April 23 1990: Inquest resumes.
April 26: DPP announces charges of negligence against Bowbelle captain Douglas Henderson. Inquest adjourned so as not to prejudice trial.
April 4-14 1991: Henderson

trial. Jury fails to agree verdict.

July 17-31 1991: Retrial. Jury fails to reach verdict again. Henderson formally acquitted.

June 11 1994: Relatives of victims win right to reopen inquest before new coroner.

March 13-April 7 1996: New inquest. Jury returns verdict of unlawful killing.
July 26 1996: CPS closes file



Kelly Dixon before her double attempt on the Channel yesterday. She completed one crossing but was pulled out by her father after collapsing on the return. PHOTOGRAPH MARK GREGG

Girl, 16, 'lucky to survive' dual Channel bid

Lucy Manning

THE teenage girl who got into difficulties while swimming the Channel was last night said by co-swimmers who brought her back to the boat to be very lucky to be alive.

Kelly Dixon, aged 16, an Australian, had been attempting a double crossing and was on her way back to England when she collapsed several miles from Dover.

Her father Gary, aged 42, who was in a boat with his wife, Gaylene, accompanying Kelly, jumped in and pulled her aboard.

He said: "She set off at 5.45am and had a very rough crossing with bad seasickness. On the way back she was feeling sick and dizzy and

three or four strokes after feeding she went all still in the water so I jumped in and dragged her back to the boat."

The Dover lifeboat went to the scene to provide medical assistance, and Kelly was taken to hospital in Ashford, Kent, where a spokeswoman said she was comfortable.

Tony Hawkins of the Dover lifeboat said Kelly had been in the water for about 15 hours and was suffering from hypothermia. "She was semi-conscious when we got to her, but then slipped into unconsciousness on the way to Dover. She was nearly gone when we got to her. She is a very lucky girl."

The pilot of the back-up boat, Mike Oram, denied she had been suffering from hypothermia. "It was more a case of energy starvation. Anyone

who has been in water for 15 hours is going to be cold, but this was more than likely a case of incorrect feeding."

Kelly had been eating honey sandwiches during the crossing, but had kept turning down the high carbohydrate food usually taken by long distance swimmers.

Two years ago she became the youngest Australian to swim the Channel. Her family are members of a life-saving club in Australia, and thought she would not be deterred by the traumatic experience.

"Knowing her I would think she would want to try to swim it both ways again," said Mr Dixon. "I wouldn't try to put anybody off, but it's not to be undertaken lightly. It's the Everest of swimming."

The perils of splashing out in world's busiest shipping lanes

"SWIMMING the Channel is like a rabbit trying to cross the M25 during the rush hour," said Mike Oram of the Channel Swimming Association, writes Lucy Manning.

The swimmers not only have to contend with the cold water, exhaustion and jelly-fish, but also one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Captain Matthew Webb made the first crossing in 1875. The obstacles that confront more than 50 swimmers who try it each year now include 1,000-ton tankers which take 30 miles to stop. A spokesman for the Royal Lifesaving Society said: "There is no chance of the ships stopping for you."



A swimmer preparing for the Channel crossing.

they are putting other people at risk. If ships have to change course, they risk collision or running into a sandbank. I would like them to stop swimming here; there are a number of other stretches of water they could use."

But Mr Oram asked: "Why should commercial traffic have more right to the Channel than a small organisation like ours, which has been here for 125 years?" Swimmers, authorised by the Channel Swimming Association, must pass a stringent medical test,

undertake a preliminary swim of six hours in cold water, and have an independent escort boat which costs over £1,000.

"Swimmers train for about a year," says Mr Oram. "And we normally have about 55 swimmers every year from around the world, of which only 50 per cent complete the crossing."

Mr Oram was piloting the boat accompanying Kelly Dixon on Thursday when she collapsed, and was out yesterday with Alison Streeter, dubbed Queen of the Channel, as she undertook her 33rd crossing.

However, even he does not understand what possesses people to attempt repeat crossings: "I guess that because it is there. It's the premier swim in the world."

The image of swimmers covered in grease to conserve heat is now part of history - it irritated swimmers when it solidified in the cold. But hypothermia still remains the biggest threat, as Kelly Dixon discovered. Since Captain Webb took to the water there have been more than 6,000 crossing attempts, but less than 500 have been successful.

These included 11-year-old Thomas Gregory who set the record for the youngest swimmer in 1888, and American Jon Erikson who completed the first triple crossing in just over 38 hours in 1981.

NOTICE TO HALIFAX SAVINGS CUSTOMERS

SPECIAL RESERVE BOND	UK RATES		NON-RESIDENT RATES		NON-PERSONAL RATES	
	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS %	NET %
HALIFAX TESSA 2 Standard rate	5.45	-	5.45	-	5.45	-
Matured TESSA	5.45	-	5.45	-	5.45	-
BONUS GOLD* (Including Bonus)						
\$100,000+	5.40	4.32	5.25	5.00	4.00	-
\$50,000+	5.10	4.08	4.95	4.80	3.84	-
\$25,000+	4.95	3.96	4.80	4.65	3.72	-
\$10,000+	4.70	3.76	4.55	4.50	3.60	-
Monthly Income Option (Including Bonus)						
\$100,000+	5.28	5.40	4.22	4.30	5.14	5.25
\$50,000+	5.00	5.10	4.00	4.07	4.85	4.95
\$25,000+	4.85	4.95	3.88	3.94	4.71	4.80
\$10,000+	4.61	4.70	3.69	3.74	4.47	4.55
SOLID GOLD*						
\$50,000+	4.50	-	3.60	-	4.30	-
\$25,000+	4.30	-	3.44	-	4.10	-
\$10,000+	3.80	-	3.04	-	3.80	-
\$5,000+	3.05	-	2.44	-	2.95	-
\$500+	2.75	-	2.20	-	2.60	-
Monthly Income Option						
\$50,000+	4.41	4.50	3.53	3.59	4.27	4.35
\$25,000+	4.22	4.30	3.38	3.43	4.07	4.15
\$10,000+	3.74	3.80	2.99	3.05	3.65	3.74
\$5,000+	3.01	3.05	2.41	2.45	2.90	2.91
\$500+	2.72	2.75	2.18	2.20	2.57	2.60
LIQUID GOLD*						
\$25,000+	3.40	-	2.72	-	3.25	-
\$10,000+	3.00	-	2.40	-	2.85	-
\$5,000+	2.60	-	2.08	-	2.45	-
\$2,500+	2.40	-	1.92	-	2.25	-
\$500+	2.15	-	1.72	-	2.00	-
\$50+	0.75	-	0.60	-	0.75	-
ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT						
\$50,000+	4.65	4.73	3.72	3.77	4.65	4.73
\$25,000+	4.35	4.42	3.48	3.53	4.35	4.42
\$10,000+	4.00	4.06	3.20	3.24	4.00	4.06
\$5,000+	3.50	3.54	2.64	2.67	3.50	3.54
YOUNG SAVERS	3.10	3.12	2.48	2.50	3.10	3.12
MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT						
\$10,000+	3.40	-	2.72	-	3.40	-
\$5,000+	2.80	-	2.24	-	2.80	-
Monthly Income						
\$10,000+	3.35	-	2.68	-	3.35	-
\$2,000+	2.76	-	2.21	-	2.76	-
TREASURER'S ACCOUNT*						
\$2,500+	3.90	-	3.12	-	3.90	-
\$500+	3.55	-	2.68	-	3.55	-
\$1+	0.75	-	0.60	-	0.75	-
CLOSED TESSAS						
TESSA Gold*	5.95	-	-	-	5.95	-
Including maturity bonus	6.07	-	-	-	6.07	-
Halifax TESSA*	5.45	-	-	-	5.45	-
Including maturity bonus	6.26	-	-	-	6.26	-
Deposit \$500+	1.90	1.91	1.52	1.53	1.90	1.91
\$50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75
Monthly Savings \$500+	1.90	1.91	1.52	1.53	1.90	1.91
\$50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75
7 Day Xtra \$200+	1.35	1.35	1.08	1.08	1.35	1.35
Special Investment Account (1st Issue)	2.75	2.77	2.20	2.21	2.75	2.77
Special Investment Account (2nd Issue)	2.25	2.26	1.80	1.81	2.25	2.26
5 Year Term Share	2.30	2.31	1.84	1.85	2.30	2.31
Subscription Share	1.90	1.91	1.52	1.53	1.90	1.91
Matured Subscription Share	1.90	1.91	1.52	1.53	1.90	1.91

Trinity Road, Halifax
27th July 1996

Thinking of buying a computer?

Computers are playing an increasingly important part in our lives. But how much should you pay for a system? And how do you know a PC will suit your needs?

step by step, through the buying process. Using real-life situations to highlight common problems, it tells you what computers can do for you and/or your business, how to avoid costly mistakes, and select sensibly-priced hardware and software that won't be instantly obsolete.

buy what you need - and not what the salesperson wants to sell you - and much more besides! This fact-packed book from Which? gives independent, unbiased advice and is essential reading for anyone planning to buy a computer, or who wants to get the most from their existing system.

Essential reading for landlords and tenants

Thinking of letting your property? Unsure of your rights as a tenant? Then get help with The Which? Guide to Renting and Letting.

Whether you are renting or letting a house, flat or room, you need to be aware of your legal rights, the financial implications of the agreement and the practicalities of the landlord/tenant relationship.

up trusts - making use of covenants - estate planning - making and updating a will - special rules for family businesses - insurance laws in Scotland - the National Lottery - passing on property.

SP76

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Guide to Property Tax (available in Which? Ltd)

OR Please charge my Amex/Visa/MasterCard (circle in Which? Ltd)

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6 WORLD NEWS

Devout Rastas flock to a special birthday party

Alice Martin joins an annual pilgrimage to Shashemane in southern Ethiopia in memory of an African emperor

THE national colours flutter above a domed tin roof in Shashemane as striking figures with heavy heads of dreadlocked hair converge on this corner of southern Ethiopia, a Mecca for the faithful.

The high point in the Rastafarian calendar is the birthday of Haile Selassie, who died 21 years ago and has been deified by the movement. The Rastafarians' name comes from ras, meaning prince, and tyfari, the emperor's title before his coronation in 1930.

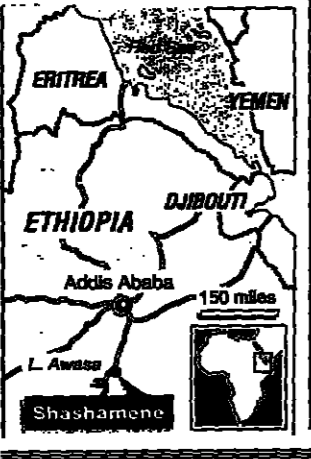
Ras Omari I and his wife Sister Saunda, from the United States, are visiting Africa for the first time.

The image of Haile Selassie woven into a huge carpet and suspended from the federation building flaps lazily against the wall.

Figures in priestly robes, or quasi-military uniforms, are chatting or smoking. Ethiopian villagers come and go, and children play football.

Ras King strides across the site carrying a pair of drums. "We have a lot to be proud of here and we have not been treated fairly by journalists," he says.

There are conflicting opinions about whether the Rastafarian movement needs publicity. Shango Backo, from Britain, thinks it does and has been sending out press releases.



Out of the shadows... A soldier stands guard as Burundi's new leader, President Pierre Buyoya, addresses the press yesterday

Burundi's new leader sets out his stall after coup Buyoya to step up war against Hutus

BURUNDI'S new leader, Pierre Buyoya, promised yesterday to intensify the bloody civil war against Hutu rebels while trying to convince the international community that he is a solid democrat committed to peace.

The first priority is to restore peace and security for all Burundians. To do so we will take measures to fight against the genocide which is being perpetrated every day," he said.

"We will wage an all-out war against those who have been killing Burundians. We're going to provide the army with sufficient resources to fight the enemy, wherever he comes from."

In a television address and at a press conference, President Buyoya sought to head off international criticism by claiming that he seized power on Thursday to prevent a coup by Tutsi extremists who would have plunged the country into worse conflict.

And he stressed his democratic credentials. A Tutsi who seized power once before, in 1987, he organised the country's first free vote six years later. It led to the election of Melchior Ndadaye, Burundi's first Hutu president, who was assassinated by the army within months, sparking the civil war.

this principal because, as everyone knows, I am among those who fought for democracy in Burundi," said President Buyoya.

"But I'm not one of those who thinks that for the sake of democracy we can let people die. We need to be pragmatic in order to save people."

The international community yesterday appeared no closer to deciding what to do about the coup. The Organisation of African Unity's secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim, threatened to use force, but did not say where the troops would come from.

The United States said it still recognised the deposed Hutu president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, who sought shelter at the American ambassador's residence. But the US envoy met President Buyoya for the second time in two days yesterday. He declined to discuss the nature of their talks.

President Buyoya's statements offered little prospect of an early end to the war which has claimed an estimated 150,000 lives, most of them civilians.

with those who stop fighting if they give up their ideology of genocide," he said.

The real test of President Buyoya's intent will be his handling of the reform of the military, civil service and other Tutsi-dominated institutions.

While President Buyoya yesterday promised to appoint a parliament representative of all interests, he made no mention of specific policies. Nor did he say how long he intends to remain in office.

Zimbabwe 'miracle cure' fails to save the poor

Kevin Watkins reports on the economic reform plan that has eroded gains in health and education since independence

FIVE years into an economic reform programme that was supposed to transform Zimbabwe into Africa's answer to the Asian "tiger" economies, Edith Chido is still waiting to see the miracle unfold in Epworth, a dusty settlement eight miles from the capital Harare.

"They speak of the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Programme (Esap) on the radio, promising us a bright future if we suffer some pain now, but I can see no future," said Mrs Chido as she washed clothes outside the one-room wooden shack shared with her husband, their three daughters and the son of a sister who died recently from HIV-related meningitis.

Until last year, her husband earned about \$270 (24.58) a month, working in a textile factory. Then the factory closed. Now the family survives on less than \$21 a day, which she earns from laundry work in Harare. Meal time is a helping of maize-based porridge or sadza, and a watery cabbage sauce.

"More than 70 per cent of the children here are malnourished," a health worker in Epworth said.

The state prosecutor's office in Potsdam said the two men, aged 17 and 24, admitted following Noel Martin's car and throwing a large stone through the windscreen. Mr Martin lost control and the car overturned several times before hitting a tree.

capita has fallen by a third since 1990, bringing one of sub-Saharan Africa's most developed health systems to the brink of collapse. A recent report from Harare city council showed that infant mortality rates have doubled since 1990.

Part of the bleak picture can be attributed to Aids, which affects 1 million people — a third of the sexually active population. According to the World Bank, treating Aids-related sickness will require a fourfold increase in

Esap's macroeconomic targets have been missed. Inflation is more than double the 10 per cent target. In 1990, real incomes have fallen, the budget deficit has increased, exports have stagnated and manufacturing output and investment have declined.

In theory, the budget sustainability could be achieved by restoring taxes on higher income groups and reducing subsidies to loss-making parastatals. In practice, powerful vested interests make this a non-starter. The upshot is that the brunt of the next phase of structural adjustment will be borne yet again by the poor.

Kevin Watkins is a senior policy adviser for Oxfam.

News in brief

Sri Lankan troops close in on rebel-held town after bombings in Colombo

SRI LANKAN troops launched a new offensive yesterday, sending international aid workers and hundreds of civilians fleeing as they quickly closed in on a northern rebel-held town, diplomats and aid workers said.

It began two days after bombs blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam killed 78 people and wounded 450 aboard a commuter train at a suburban station in Colombo.

The Tamil Tigers, fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east in a war the government says has cost more than 60,000 lives, denied responsibility for the latest in a series of bombings to hit the Sri Lankan capital.

Hijacked plane flies to Miami

AMAN who hijacked an Iberia airliner en route from Madrid to Havana, forcing it to fly to Miami International airport, was expected to surrender peacefully last night.

Two admit to racist attack

TWO men have confessed to a racist attack near Berlin last month which left a Birmingham building worker paralysed, writes Denis Staunton in Berlin.

Striking Russian miners threaten suicide over pay

RUSSIAN coal miners, who have been on strike for 12 days in the country's far east over unpaid wages, are threatening to throw themselves down mine shafts and to block the Trans-Siberian railway, a union leader said yesterday.

trade union committee of coal workers, told the Rar-Tass news agency.

face up to their problems," Mr Kiryasov said.

Two admit to racist attack

Details of the hijacker's identity and motivation were sketchy last night but the hijack occurred on the most important date in the Cuban revolutionary calendar, the anniversary of the attack on the Moncada barracks. CNN television reported that local Miami Cubans had applauded the attack on the flight, which runs six times a week between the Spanish and Cuban capitals.

Two admit to racist attack

White House officials said President Bill Clinton had been briefed about the incident. — Foreign Staff.

Advertisement for 'Going Places' featuring illustrations of the Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty, and other landmarks. Text: 'HUGE FOR HOLIDAY MONEY', 'Going Places is Britain's largest network of instantly available foreign currency and travellers cheques.', 'Travellers Cheques'.

8 SPORTS NEWS

Racing
Cliche should add diamonds to gold

Graham Rock predicts further success for the versatile Godolphin four-year-old

CLASSIC CLICHE is a top-class horse who has had few chances to prove his worth over a mile and half. I believe he is capable of becoming the first horse to win both the Ascot Gold Cup and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Oscar Schindler was flat out to beat Annus Mirabilis over today's course and distance in the Hardwicke Stakes last month. The runner-up was only third to Posidonia...



Record seeker... Classic Cliche bids to become the first horse to win Ascot's top two races

Bolshoi bowls in for Brown

WHILE England were battling with Pakistan yesterday, former Test cricketer David Brown was watching his sprinter Bolshoi win Ascot's Jackman's Garden Centre Stakes by a whisker from Sylvia Paradise.

Wild Takes

Edward on h... Good batt...

Ascot with TV form

- 2.00 Hamilton Place
2.35 Newmarket
2.50 Goodwood's Word
5.50 CLASSIC CLICHE (top)
4.50 Ono II (second)
6.00 Comptonhouse
6.15 Percy Bradshaw

Draw No advantage. Going Good to Firm. + Duneside Milders.

Draws in brackets after horse's name denote days since last starting

BBC-1

- 2.00 CORONATION DIAMOND STAKES (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-2

- 2.35 PRINCESS MARGARET STAKES (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-3

- 3.05 NEWCASTLE STAKES (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-4

- 3.50 KING GEORGE VI AND THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DIAMOND STAKES 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-5

- 4.30 FURZE BUSH HANDICAP (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-6

- 5.35 BRACKLEY HANDICAP (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

Newcastle

- 2.15 Vagabond Challenge
2.50 Maud For Dancers
3.25 Sandover Zoo
4.00 Alford (top)
4.50 Newmarket
5.50 Saddle Tracer

Draw No advantage. Going Good to Firm. + Duneside Milders.

Draws in brackets after horse's name denote days since last starting

BBC-1

- 2.15 VAGABOND CHALLENGE (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-2

- 2.50 MAUD FOR DANCERS (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-3

- 3.25 SANDOVER ZOO (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-4

- 4.00 ALFORD (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-5

- 4.50 NEWMARKET (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-6

- 5.50 SADDLE TRACER (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

Southwell (A.W.) tonight

- 6.55 Shirley Sea
6.55 Lyons Youth
7.25 Denis Rock
7.55 Angus McDougal
8.25 Another Quarter
8.55 Mead You Boldly

Draw No advantage. Going Good to Firm. + Duneside Milders.

Draws in brackets after horse's name denote days since last starting

BBC-1

- 6.25 WISKEY HANDICAP (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-2

- 6.55 RAYON NOTTINGHAM BREAKFAST WITH THE LYONS'S CLAIMING GUARANTEED STAKES (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-3

- 7.25 MILD MOTOR MEDIUM AUCTION HANDICAP (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-4

- 7.55 GEMINE FARM BARNEY BROTHER HANDICAP (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-5

- 8.25 PERKINS BROTHERS BELLING STAKES (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-6

- 8.55 GEMINE FARM BARNEY BROTHER HANDICAP (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

Lingfield tonight

- 6.10 Philadelphia Puller
6.40 High Staircase
7.10 Farinot
7.40 Serious Trust
8.10 Le Tumbler
8.40 Allstars Express

Draw No advantage. Going Good to Firm. + Duneside Milders.

Draws in brackets after horse's name denote days since last starting

BBC-1

- 6.10 PHILADELPHIA PULLER (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-2

- 6.40 HIGH STAIRCASE (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-3

- 7.10 FARINOT (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-4

- 7.40 SERIOUS TRUST (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-5

- 8.10 LE TUMBLER (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-6

- 8.40 ALLSTARS EXPRESS (LANSBURY) 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

Stratford National Hunt card

- 3.55 Overcast
3.55 Pointon
4.10 Houghton
4.45 Ely
5.20 Maltby

Going Good to Firm. + Duneside Milders.

Draws in brackets after horse's name denote days since last starting

BBC-1

- 2.25 BUCKINGHAM OLDROYD KING GEORGE NOVICE HURDLES 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-2

- 3.00 KING EDWARD GREAT BANNER HURDLES 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-1

- 4.10 GRAND BARRI BROTHERS BELLING CHASE 3m CLASS
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-2

- 4.45 KING HENRY WALKABOUT HANDICAP HURDLES 2m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

BBC-3

- 5.20 RICHMONDS KING ANTHONY VAN DUNBROU HURDLES 1m 47.50
101 20-000 CASSELL (14) (9) 11/10 11-9-13
102 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
103 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13
104 20-000 GEMINI (21) (10) 11/10 11-9-13

Good batt

Blindered today the first time. ASCOT: 3.50 Annus Mirabilis, LINGFIELD: 6.20 Houghton Venture, NEWCASTLE: 3.25 Samson, VIRMINGTON SOUTHWELL: 8.20 River Chalmers, EAST STURTON: 3.25 Trive, Slippy Pin STRATFORD: 2.25 Desert Callm, 4.15 Hartston Lady.

Results

Table with columns for race name, horse name, jockey, and time. Includes results for various races like '2.10 (10) 1, MAYFAIR, T. Quinn 10-1', '3.05 (10) 1, MAYFAIR, T. Quinn 10-1', etc.

RACELINE logo and text: 0930 1684 COMMENTARY RESULTS. ASCOT NEWCASTLE STRATFORD LINGFIELD SOUTHWELL FULL RESULTS SERVICE 1.68

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Golf

Wild Thing takes 89

Michael Britton in Hilversum

JOHN DALY never does anything by half measures. When he is good but when he is bad he is so awful that even his best friends are embarrassed.

Daly had to be persuaded from walking off the course by his partners Frank Nobilo and Philip Walton. He just avoided the indignity of taking 90 by achieving his only birdie at the par-five 18th.

In 1989 he paid a similar Dutch Open appearance fee to the new Open champion Mark Calcavecchia, who also lasted only 36 holes.

Daly, winner of the 1991 US PGA title and last year's Open champion, returned a 22-over-par 164, 33 strokes behind the winner.

Rugby League

Edwards may be on his way

Paul Fitzpatrick

SHAUN EDWARDS, the Wigan scrum-half and captain and the most decorated player in the game's history, appears to be on a collision course with his club and could be on his way out of Central Park.

The 29-year-old Great Britain international half-back declared himself unfit for last night's Super League game with Halifax Blue Sox because of a knee cartilage problem.

Nevertheless his arch-rival Michael Schumacher, who set the seventh fastest time in his Ferrari, could not resist dwelling on the subject when asked whether he would expect more competition if his former Mercedes-Benz sports car team-mate Heinz-Harald

reality a big dent to my confidence. "I've been dropped in the last two games and now I have read the speculation that they want to sell me."

Edwards joined Wigan as a 17-year-old in 1983 and is the club's longest-serving player. Graeme West, Wigan's coach, would not elaborate on any possible "showdown" between player and club.

The Warrington winger Richard Hearn and the St Helens utility player Andy Northey have received two-match suspensions after being placed on report.



Narrow view... Hill maintains his focus at practice yesterday despite rumours of his replacement by Frenzen. MICHAEL LEFMAN

Hill avoids the diversion

Alan Henry at Hockenheim finds the Briton happily cool away from the cockpit of gossip

DAMON HILL was only eighth fastest in the first free practice session for the German Grand Prix here yesterday but the solitude afforded by the cockpit of his Williams-Renault FW18 meant he was not aware of any plan to get rid of him.

in contact with the Jordan team all year. Every driver in the paddock would camp in front of Frank's transporter if he thought there was the chance of a drive.

Good-bye battery



Welcome to the future: Seiko Kinetic, the first quartz watch that turns your movement into power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse.



Seiko Kinetic at: http://www.seiko-corp.co.jp

Results

Soccer

UEFA CUP DRAW

UEFA CUP DRAW: Preliminary round FC Kosice (Slovakia) v Celtic, Legia Warsaw (Pol) v Haka (Fin), Rapid Bucharest (Rom) v Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulg), Shamrock Rovers (Irel) v FC Bayern Munich (Ger), Heracles Almelo (Hol) v Apollon Limassol (Cypr), Trabzonspor (Tur) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger), FC Bayern Munich (Ger) v Rapid Bucharest (Rom), Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger), FC Bayern Munich (Ger) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger), FC Bayern Munich (Ger) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger).

Rugby League

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Gold Coast 14, N Queensland 28, Brisbane 28, St George 8.

Golf

DUTCH OPEN (Hilversum): Second round leading qualifiers (GBers unless stated) followed by 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000.

Evening Racing

NEWARK: 1-10, 2-10, 3-10, 4-10, 5-10, 6-10, 7-10, 8-10, 9-10, 10-10. NEWARK: 1-10, 2-10, 3-10, 4-10, 5-10, 6-10, 7-10, 8-10, 9-10, 10-10.

Rugby Union

Leading clubs threaten more trouble for RFU

Chris Hewett

THE fragile truce between the Rugby Football Union and England's top sides will be in the balance once again this weekend when senior club officials meet to discuss a possible breakaway.

English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Limited, the pressure group representing the majority of clubs in Courage League One and Two, has organised a meeting at Heathrow Airport tomorrow.

The breakaway is being led by the leading club, Leicester Tigers, who are determined to sign their own £22 million, five-year contract with the same broadcaster. A united front between the top sides of both countries now seems inevitable.

Leaving aside EPRUC's concerns over the Sky money, clubs are also deeply worried about the commercial arrangements in place for the three new competitions organised since the end of last season: the European Cup, the second-tier European Challenge Cup and the Anglo-Welsh Cup.

Soccer

Leeds almost united in greeting club's new dawn

Martin Wainwright on local reactions after takeover is cleared

OUTSIDE Ulan Bator, which has an almost passionate connection with the Mongolian department of Leeds University, Yorkshire's largest city famous internationally for only one thing.

Sport in brief

Sports Politics

The Newcastle United chairman Sir John Hall's dream of a single multi-sport empire came to an end yesterday when shareholders voted to separate the Premier League team from the non-football activities, which passed to the control of a new parent company, the Sporting Club Ltd.

Soccer

The Sheffield Wednesday manager David Platt has returned from Turin confident of signing the £3 million Juventus midfielder Attilio Lombardo next week.

Rugby League

STONKS SUPER LEAGUE: London v Wigan 18-10, Leeds v Wakefield 10-6, Doncaster v Wakefield 10-6, Huddersfield v Wakefield 10-6, Bradford v Wakefield 10-6, Salford v Wakefield 10-6, Hull v Wakefield 10-6, Wigan v Wakefield 10-6.

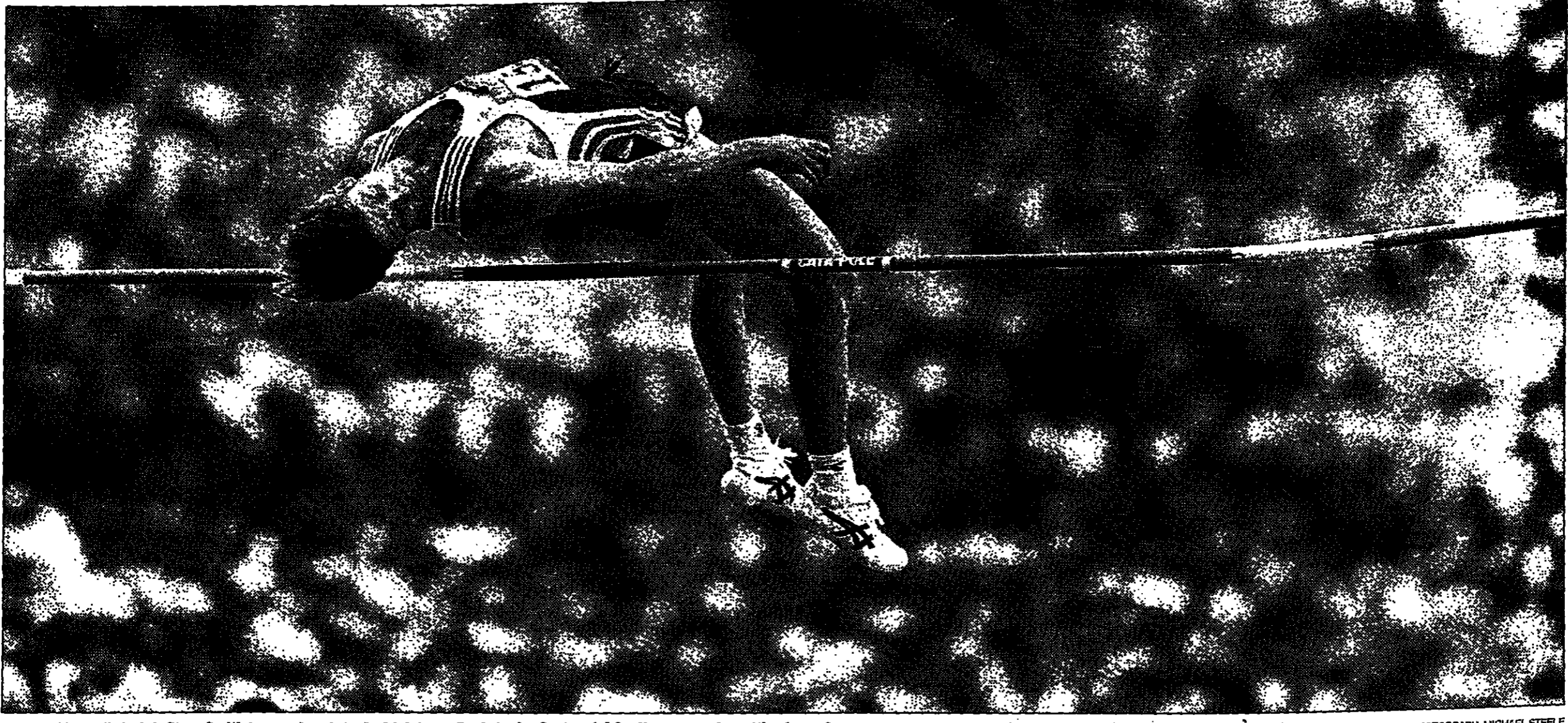
Tennis

The unseeded Spaniard Emilio Alvarez, ranked 160 in the world, pulled off a major shock when he beat the world No. 2 Thomas Muster 6-1, 7-6 in the quarter-finals of the Austrian Open in Kitzbuhel.

THE SOLHEIM CUP. The Old Course, St Pierre Hotel, Chepstow. 17th - 22nd September 1996. BOOK TICKETS NOW. 0171 413 3355.

10 SPORTS NEWS

OLYMPIC GAMES



Over and in... Britain's Steve Smith jumps clear into the high jump finals in the Centennial Stadium yesterday with a leap of 2.28 metres. He was joined by 13 other qualifiers — an Olympic record PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STEELE

Pickering and Dalton fall short

Athletics

Stephen Bierley

THE 20-kilometre walkers were out bright and early yesterday to take full advantage of what passes for cool in Atlanta...

chambers. But it is not all modern tech. This week Steve Buckley admitted some of his preparation for the javelin had entailed switching the hot taps on in his bathroom...

22 years old, the youngest winner of this title, produced a time of 1:07.07sec, a mere nine seconds ahead of Markov. The bronze medal went to Mexico's Bernardo Segura.

Steve Smith reached tomorrow's final but Dalton Grant, for the second successive Games, failed. "We had to be up by 6am and only had a limited amount of warm-up time," said Smith...

stuck out in lane eight it is like being a chased rabbit. Smith finished third in her heat in 51.99 and Fraser, also third, recorded 53.78.

Ukrainian triumph leaves US in floods of tears

Gymnastics

Richard Williams

THE PRESIDENT turned up at the Georgia Dome on Thursday night but he was 48 hours too late to share in the joy and glory of America's tiny female gymnasts...



Podkopayeva... took gold to complete a notable double

American in tears after Dawes had fallen back on to her hands after a front somersault in the same exercise, an error rewarded with a harsh 9.000 from the floor judges.

World records in peril on 'Ferrari of tracks'

Duncan Mackay on the Atlanta Stadium running surface that was designed and installed with high performance in mind

EROY BURRELL looked a foregone conclusion as he left the Olympic Stadium here yesterday. The American knew that his two-year reign as the world 100-metre record holder was probably ending...

The stadium track has been built to the most speed-friendly specifications ever and already has seen a glut of fast times...

The track is so firm that it is barely within the IAAF's specifications. "There's never been a surface created like this," said Michael DiNatale, the sales manager for Mondo...

made in athletes' running shoes. "You're dealing with thousands of a second in movement on your touch-down. If that track gives that back to you and you are not prepared for it...

Smith attributed that to the track surface being ahead of the advancements in athlete's running shoes. "You're dealing with thousands of a second in movement on your touch-down."

Today in Atlanta

Table of events for Today in Atlanta, including Women's singles, Women's doubles, Men's singles, Men's doubles, Men's 200m, Men's 400m, Men's 800m, Men's 1500m, Men's 5000m, Men's 10000m, Men's 3000m steeplechase, Men's 50km walk, Men's 100km walk, Men's 20km race walk, Men's 50km race walk, Men's 100km race walk, Men's 50km time trial, Men's 100km time trial, Men's 200km time trial, Men's 500km time trial, Men's 1000km time trial, Men's 2000km time trial, Men's 5000km time trial, Men's 10000km time trial, Men's 20000km time trial, Men's 50000km time trial, Men's 100000km time trial, Men's 200000km time trial, Men's 500000km time trial, Men's 1000000km time trial.

Table of events for Thursday in Atlanta, including Women's singles, Women's doubles, Men's singles, Men's doubles, Men's 200m, Men's 400m, Men's 800m, Men's 1500m, Men's 5000m, Men's 10000m, Men's 3000m steeplechase, Men's 50km walk, Men's 100km walk, Men's 20km race walk, Men's 50km race walk, Men's 100km race walk, Men's 50km time trial, Men's 100km time trial, Men's 200km time trial, Men's 500km time trial, Men's 1000km time trial, Men's 2000km time trial, Men's 5000km time trial, Men's 10000km time trial, Men's 20000km time trial, Men's 50000km time trial, Men's 100000km time trial, Men's 200000km time trial, Men's 500000km time trial, Men's 1000000km time trial.

Table of events for Friday in Atlanta, including Women's singles, Women's doubles, Men's singles, Men's doubles, Men's 200m, Men's 400m, Men's 800m, Men's 1500m, Men's 5000m, Men's 10000m, Men's 3000m steeplechase, Men's 50km walk, Men's 100km walk, Men's 20km race walk, Men's 50km race walk, Men's 100km race walk, Men's 50km time trial, Men's 100km time trial, Men's 200km time trial, Men's 500km time trial, Men's 1000km time trial, Men's 2000km time trial, Men's 5000km time trial, Men's 10000km time trial, Men's 20000km time trial, Men's 50000km time trial, Men's 100000km time trial, Men's 200000km time trial, Men's 500000km time trial, Men's 1000000km time trial.

Table of events for Saturday in Atlanta, including Women's singles, Women's doubles, Men's singles, Men's doubles, Men's 200m, Men's 400m, Men's 800m, Men's 1500m, Men's 5000m, Men's 10000m, Men's 3000m steeplechase, Men's 50km walk, Men's 100km walk, Men's 20km race walk, Men's 50km race walk, Men's 100km race walk, Men's 50km time trial, Men's 100km time trial, Men's 200km time trial, Men's 500km time trial, Men's 1000km time trial, Men's 2000km time trial, Men's 5000km time trial, Men's 10000km time trial, Men's 20000km time trial, Men's 50000km time trial, Men's 100000km time trial, Men's 200000km time trial, Men's 500000km time trial, Men's 1000000km time trial.

OLYMPIC GAMES



Family pack... Redgrave's daughter Sophie, held by his wife Ann, joins his mother, right, in loud encouragement during Thursday's semi-finals

Mum's the word for Redgrave

Christopher Dodd on the parent power driving Britain's rowing machine

"I FEEL dreadful. We got very uptight. I can't do anything but stop on the finishing line. I can't go to the start. I've never followed a race, never. I have to be there for that last bit of encouragement. I shout."

"Once I can remember we missed the first race. The first thing Steve said was, 'You weren't there, were you? I didn't hear you shouting. Usually he's completely oblivious to what's happening round him.'"

Sheila Redgrave will be as near as she can get to the finish at Lake Lanier tomorrow, just as she was for her son's first race last Sunday and the semi-final on Thursday.

She has been Steve's No. 1 supporter since the day as a 14-year-old he was invited to try rowing by Francis Smith, his teacher at Great Marlow school. Since then the gentle giant, now aged 34, has won three Commonwealth and six world golds, 15 Henley medals and three Olympic golds.

Redgrave, the youngest of three children, suffers from dyslexia but is succoured by tunnel vision. "His school crew won seven regattas in their first year. It's a beautiful deficit from then onwards," says his mother. "He wanted to be the best Olympian there ever was and he wanted to be it in a single scull. From a very early age."

Redgrave's determination began as family legend. His wife Ann is the British rowing team's doctor and mother of Natalie and Sophie, goddaughters of Redgrave's partner since 1990, the Old Etonian helicopter pilot Pinesent.

Then there is his father Geoff, a former pilot who drives a camper van all over Europe to deliver Sheila to finishing lines from their home near Alicante in Spain. Sheila acts as a rallying point for the army of parents

and friends who make up the British Rowing International Supporters Club, a vocal flagging band who have accompanied Steve since Ewen Pinesent (retired), his wife Jean, daughter Catherine and his nephew.

The Redgrave story has run to plan in every respect save one. It is with partners, not solo, that Steve has notched up his achievements. His mother had all their measure. With Adam Cliff he won a junior silver medal in 1980 which should have been gold.

"He was a great character. They were quite good. But Adam didn't really come through the winter. Steven always felt strongly about winter training."

Andy Holmes featured in the Olympic golds of 1984 and 1988. "They were two very, very different people, and they gelled together in a boat, didn't they? They were fantastic. When they stepped out of the boat, Andy went to his wife and family. Steven was a single bloke still. They'd got nothing in common. I think the animosity was all built up. I always got along well with him. You had to drag him along in conversation. He didn't mix with the other rowers either."

"Andy was very money motivated. He wanted to get financial return for a year. He had a family to support. With Steven it was never money. It was achievement. But he always had us behind him."

Simon Beresford's term was short-lived because he injured his back. "Simon was nice enough but very boastful. I didn't see that partnership going from the beginning. Steven isn't boastful. He never really thinks about a race until it's won."

"Then came Pinesent. 'I don't know what the difference would be between Andy and Matthew. Matthew's got age on his side now. Lovely boy, really is a nice lad, very kind, very good.'"

The big competitions are an endurance test for both mother and son. "I live it every day," Sheila says. "There's not much enjoyment until it's all over."



The world's eyes on the history man

Rowing

Christopher Dodd

OLYMPIC history could be made today when Redgrave and Pinesent cross the line at Lake Lanier. They are unbeaten since they took gold in the coxless pairs in Barcelona four years ago, and victory here will give Redgrave his fourth gold in four consecutive Games.

Jürgen Gröbler, the Britons' coach, believes their milestones was in 1994 when they twice won under Steve's oars for 2,000 metres and set the world record of 6:18.37. "Those were outstanding times," said Gröbler. "To do it twice proves they have the capability, technique, skills and fitness. Times are based on conditions and they are faster now. Even an older athlete like Redgrave [34] improves his performance."

The four of Rupert Obholzer, Tim Foster and the 1992 Olympic coxed pairs champions Jonny and Greg Searle have been overshadowed by the razzmatazz surrounding the pair. But this crew are poised to upset the world champions Italy and the Olympic champions Australia.

Third in the world in 1994 and second last year, they are a tight knit group who have spent years ducking and diving in and out of crews starting their medal winning as juniors. Their laid-back good nature on the bank is matched by a discipline of perfection in everything they do on the water. There could be a thrill in Barcelona just after an hour after Redgrave and Pinesent race.

Guin Batten also has a final in the single sculls in which Canada's Silken Laumann is the favourite. A medal unlikely but, as every athlete here says, "It's the Olympics. Anything can happen."

Britain's remaining chances of final places evaporated yesterday when the lightweight four and light weight double scullers Nick Strange and Andy Sinton failed to finish among the first three in semi-finals.

Yesterday in Atlanta

Athletics

Men's 20km walk: First 1, J. Pavesi (ITA) 2:07.00; 2, S. Bignardi (ITA) 2:07.30; 3, N. Aghajani (IRN) 2:07.35; 4, R. M. Jones (GBR) 2:07.40; 5, R. Kozma (HUN) 2:07.45; 6, R. Kozma (HUN) 2:07.50; 7, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:07.55; 8, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:08.00; 9, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:08.05; 10, L. Longo (ITA) 2:08.10; 11, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:08.15; 12, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:08.20; 13, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:08.25; 14, L. Longo (ITA) 2:08.30; 15, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:08.35; 16, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:08.40; 17, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:08.45; 18, L. Longo (ITA) 2:08.50; 19, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:08.55; 20, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:09.00; 21, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:09.05; 22, L. Longo (ITA) 2:09.10; 23, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:09.15; 24, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:09.20; 25, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:09.25; 26, L. Longo (ITA) 2:09.30; 27, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:09.35; 28, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:09.40; 29, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:09.45; 30, L. Longo (ITA) 2:09.50; 31, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:09.55; 32, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:10.00; 33, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:10.05; 34, L. 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Toulon (FRA) 2:24.05; 202, L. Longo (ITA) 2:24.10; 203, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:24.15; 204, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:24.20; 205, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:24.25; 206, L. Longo (ITA) 2:24.30; 207, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:24.35; 208, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:24.40; 209, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:24.45; 210, L. Longo (ITA) 2:24.50; 211, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:24.55; 212, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:25.00; 213, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:25.05; 214, L. Longo (ITA) 2:25.10; 215, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:25.15; 216, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:25.20; 217, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:25.25; 218, L. Longo (ITA) 2:25.30; 219, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:25.35; 220, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:25.40; 221, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:25.45; 222, L. Longo (ITA) 2:25.50; 223, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:25.55; 224, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:26.00; 225, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:26.05; 226, L. Longo (ITA) 2:26.10; 227, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:26.15; 228, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:26.20; 229, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:26.25; 230, L. Longo (ITA) 2:26.30; 231, D. Pavesi (ITA) 2:26.35; 232, M. Khamis (EGY) 2:26.40; 233, T. Toulon (FRA) 2:26.45; 234, L. 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SportsGuardian

Ecuador wins first ever medal as track and field starts 'real' Games

Perez walks to gold

Stephen Bierley in Atlanta

MANY believe the Olympics have properly started only when the track and field gets underway. Ecuador, until yesterday, had no reason to suppose athletics even existed, having never won an Olympic medal of any sort, but the South American country experienced unparalleled joy when its 20-kilometre walker Jefferson Perez won the first track gold of the centennial Games.

It will not be a victory remembered for long outside Ecuador. Indeed it is sometimes possible to believe Michael Johnson's assault on the 200 and 400 metres double is the only event that matters at all here.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation, in cahoots with NBC, has done everything possible, short of sponsoring him themselves, to make sure Johnson repeats his golden double of last year's world championships in Gothenburg.

The IAAF fixed the schedule. NBC bagged prime-time viewing. Now all Johnson has to do is win. "If there was not any risk, everybody would be doing it," said Johnson this week. "It's the risk that makes me want to do it — and the challenge."

The main challenge to Johnson will come in the second event, the 200m. "There are probably three guys walking the earth who can beat Michael and none of them can beat him in the 400m," said the fast developing Trinidad sprinter Ato Bolden.

Namibia's Frankie Fredericks is the man who may cause the stars and stripes upset the Americans ahead but by Monday night the first part of the dream double should have been completed.

There was early evidence during yesterday's heats that the track will be very fast. "I'm sure the world 100m record will be broken during these games," said Bolden. That stands at 9.85, set by Leroy Burrell of the US in July 1984.

Despite the plethora of problems, ticket sales have been higher than expected for these Games and yesterday the Olympic Stadium was virtually full from the moment the walkers set off. "People are leaving the Olympic Venues and turning around at the box office to buy more tickets," said a spokesman for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

So far broken-down buses have cost the organisers more than \$850,000, while ACOG will forgo substantial fees which the leading news agencies were to have paid for event results.

Steve Smith qualified for tomorrow's high jump final but there was failure for Dalton Grant, who also missed the final in Barcelona four years ago. There was disappointment, too, for the shot putter Shaun Pickering.

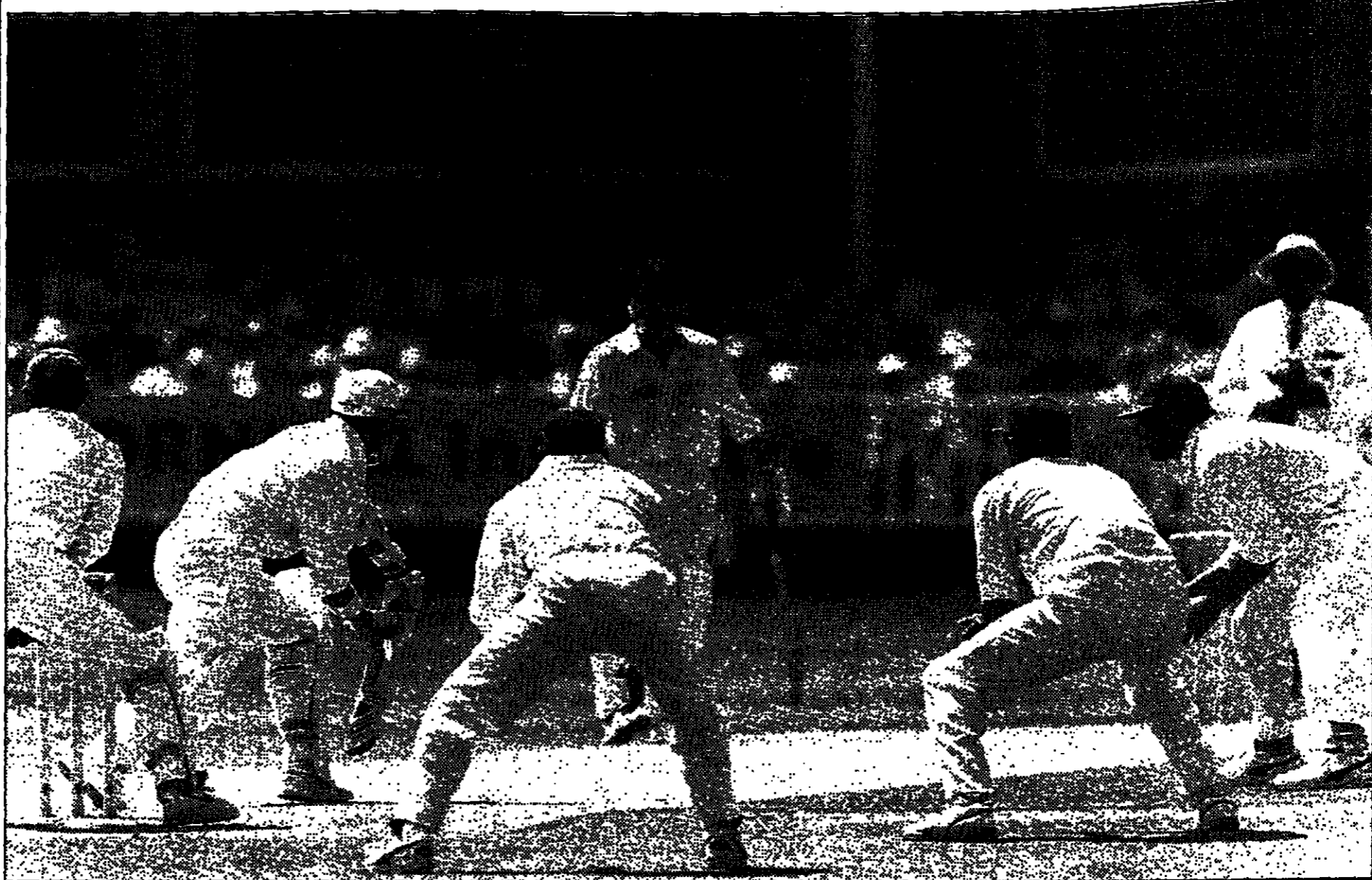
Pickering had thrown 19.50 during the warm-up, which would have been enough to reach the final, but once inside the stadium he could manage only 18.28, missing out by more than a metre.

Burundi's athletes will remain in Atlanta despite Thursday's coup by the nation's army.

"They [the athletes] want to participate in the Games," said Leonard Ndirwaya, the team's chef de mission. "We are supposed to stay until August 6 but, if things get worse politically, we may leave early."

This is the first time Burundi has participated in the Olympics and its six athletes, all runners, have not yet met IOC time standards to qualify. However, the IOC can still allow them to run.

ATHERTON'S MEN PUT ON THE RACK BY PAKISTAN'S ATTACK



Pin-down treatment... Alec Stewart fends off Mushtaq Ahmed but the leg-spinner eventually succeeded in trapping him leg-before with his googly for 39

England v Pakistan: first Test, second day

England lose the plot

Mike Selvey at Lord's

ASACRILEGIOUS idea it may be but in the interests of English cricket there is a case for shifting Test matches away from the splendour of Lord's and relocating them.

It is the inspirational effect that the pilgrimage to the Home of Cricket has on visiting teams and Pakistan, it

seems, are no different. Out of 62 matches between the sides Pakistan have won only seven, five of them in this country and two of those at Lord's.

In 1982 it was Mohsin Khan's double century that put them on the way. Ten years later and there were Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, brothers in arms with the ball but an unlikely pairing with the bat, who rescued a desperate situation

and took Pakistan from 85 for eight to victory with an unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 46. Afterwards Wasim, in his euphoria, had said how they drew strength from the plot of land in St John's Wood.

Now, unless England play very well over the next three days, Wasim, leader of his side, could do it again. After a first day of even-tempered skirmishing England are on the rack and fighting for their existence. By the close Graham Thorpe (43) and Jack Russell (4) were left fighting desperately to hold off the relentless Pakistan attack.

Thorp has already batted for two and a quarter hours — including a stand of 64 with Mark Ealham (25) — and much will depend on how he copes with the onslaught first thing this morning. But at 200 for five, in reply to Pakistan's 340, England already have an uphill task to save the game, let alone win it.

If there was disappointment in England's performance, however, it was still a day to savour the talent and rich variety in the Pakistan attack.

Wasim has already batted with the new ball, taking out the England captain, and then later, when the reverse swing began to take effect, handing over to Waqar, who whistled in and blasted away Nick Knight — shortly after he had completed a worthy half-century — and, as inevitably as winter follows summer, the hapless Graeme Hick.

Mushtaq Ahmed, too, was weaving his magic spells but, with the single wicket of Alec Stewart, perhaps did not gain the reward his wiles deserved. But the effect may be longer term: most of the England batsmen read him as well as a Chinese dictionary and the second innings might be his showcase.

England had started well enough, with Knight and Mike Atherton putting on 27 in five overs and no hint of movement for either opening bowler before a poor piece of umpiring removed the captain. Wasim, operating over the wicket from the Nursery End, slapped the ball in short of a length and, as Atherton jumped across his crease, he was struck just above the knee roll.

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Now an umpire has the devil of a job: in the space of less than half a second, his eyes must focus on the front crease, read the pitch of the ball and do so again at the other end, and he must immediately compute the variables of the lbw law. But Peter Willey, in his first Test, got it wrong, with the ball clearly (thanks to TV) missing off stump and perhaps pitching outside leg stump as well.

Knight, meanwhile, had played with freedom and confidence on his return to the side, driving strongly and hitting Mushtaq to the boundary three times in as many balls. Mushtaq, like most leg-spinners, likes bowling to left-handers least.

Stewart, too, looked more comfortable than he has done for a while and had begun to clip the ball nicely off his legs and drive emphatically. Omniously, though, with the ball more than 30 overs old, Wasim had begun to work it off the straight.

Knight had a fortunate escape when 48, edging Mushtaq into and out of Aamir Sohail's hands at slip. The subsequent two runs at first were deemed leg-byes (al-though Knight acknowledged his half-century) but were later reinstated by the umpires. The extra couple of

runs were of little consequence for Knight, after a partnership of 80 with Stewart, stretched forward to Waqar and was given lbw by Steve Bucknor, another decision that did not look too clever. One over later and Stewart had followed, leg-before again but indisputably this time as he offered no stroke to Mushtaq's googly.

With the entrance of Hick came a real piquancy to the day: a play within a play. With expectations unfulfilled at the age of 30, he knows only too well the pressure under-but would probably have chosen any bowlers in the world other than Waqar and Mushtaq against whom to justify himself. It was an unhappy 20 minutes he spent in the middle before Waqar cranked up a gear and sneaked the yorker through. Since his fire

hundred at Centurion Park in the first Test against South Africa last winter, Hick has now made 191 runs from 12 innings, with this summer's haul a meagre 39 in five innings before patience surely finally runs out and someone else gets a chance.

In the morning England made heavy weather of finishing the Pakistan innings as Rashid Latif played with enterprise for his 45 and Ata-ur-Rehman supported sensibly. Together they negotiated 75 minutes, adding precisely 60 and surviving the second new ball, before Ian Salisbury finally found the perfect leg-break to dismiss Latif.

Even that had a downside. If he could do that, what would Mushtaq manage? Over the next few days we shall find out.

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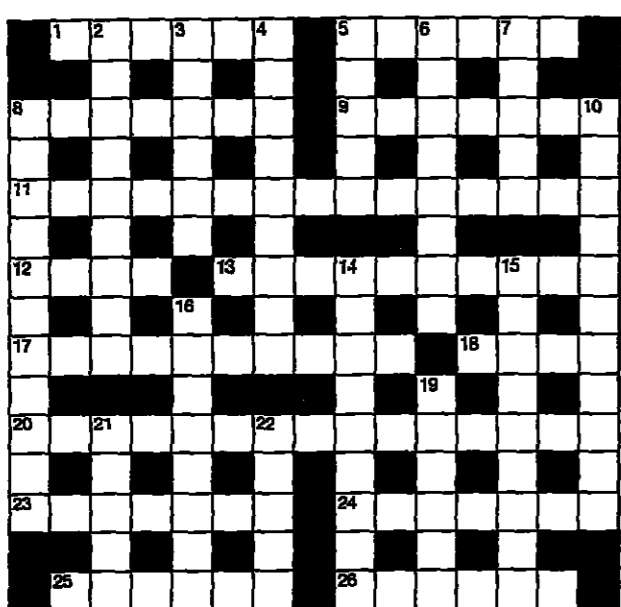
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Guardian COLLINS Prize Crossword No 20,716



Set by Araucaria

Across

- 1 Father of the House, perhaps, as is plain (6)
- 5 Pierce the heart, perhaps, with little time in the part (6)
- 8 Decisive colonial (7)
- 9 Suggested remedy: don't play the guitar? (7)
- 11 Steeplechaser backing my way to the Lake's crime fiction (8,5)
- 12 Sealing with strings (4)
- 13 Mistake by person that's good on paper in file's wake (10)
- 17 Too 22 to give Sir a chance (10)

- 18 Return of batsman to sea (4)
- 20 Bans for quagmire mess by cavalrymen on pub signs (7,2,6)
- 23 Bat, not getting a century — 12, possibly (7)
- 24 Unconscious of striking at the wrong temperature for the iron? (3,4)
- 25 Large cup for small mouth? (6)
- 26 Less than half the least note is death (6)

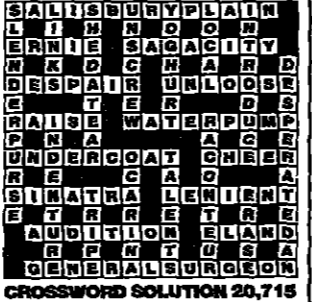
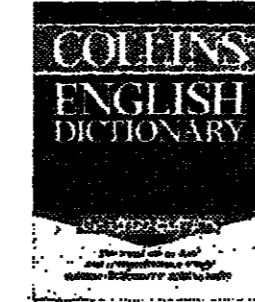
Down

- 2 Picture reviewer with gout if temperature's wrong (3,6)
- 3 Bed and board puts everyone in a temper (6)
- 4 Cooker of eggs, rider of bikes, and muddler of messages (8)
- 5 More money for being a passenger in public transport (6)
- 6 Has an idea for 11 after 16? (6)
- 7 Welsh beast in Bacchic orgies (5)
- 8 I have a day on herbs: I couldn't pay for food (6,5)
- 10 Abused dope — my smile is misplaced (11)
- 14 Group with personal number meeting other folk at the Yard (4,5)
- 15 Certain to come up about duplicator that's wrong (6)
- 16 Turn in a slough that's changed what he always drinks (3,5)

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,716, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday August 5.

Name
Address

Tick here if you do not wish to receive further information from the Guardian Media Group or other companies screened by us



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,716

- 19 One way to learn in the afternoon for now (3,3)
- 21 Take to one side (5)
- 22 Dessert laid around us is nice (5)

The hacks finds the... The arer belly

Handwritten note: 7

July 27 1996

The Guardian Outlook



Big event, big bucks, big heat... the Olympic ideal as viewed by three spectators at the Holland v Germany water polo match. As at Euro 96, the Dutch, complete with inflatable orange plastic hammers, are the best supporters PHOTOGRAPH BY LUCA BRUNO

The hacks are hacked off but the punters are happy punting. JOHN DUNCAN in Atlanta finds the spectators having a good time, y'all. Some even have their own sponsors

The fans aren't bellyaching

DANDEVILDER comes from Normal, Illinois, and likes judo. That presumably is why he has the stars and stripes painted on his face and the Olympic rings like a lovebite drawn on his neck. There is little normal about the way Atlanta and its international visitors have taken to the Olympics.

While journalists have been headbutting information terminals and athletes have been hijacking buses, the average Olympic fan has been having a pretty good time all in all, y'all.

With wigs and painted faces, they make a colourful backdrop to an Olympics that has been chaos off the pitch but flawless on it and good old-fashioned fun besides. The Norwegians have brought cow bells, the Brazilians are led by

a fat bloke sponsored by a pharmacist, the Kazakstanis get to venues early to have their halalaikas checked through security, the Poles have a cavalry bugler, and the Tunisians have a bagpiper and wearing dunce hats that look embarrassingly like KKK fancy dress.

The Koreans have giant yellow inflatable missiles that say "Victory! Korea!" on them, which they bang together for extra effect at key moments.

Fifty raucous Poles have enlisted the wrestling with their chanting and flag-waving. "Look at us, we are really showing the world something," said Peter Toczek, a 26-year-old house painter who now lives in Connecticut, in apt summary of the pride without prejudice. Even the Americans have shown remarkable nationalist restraint, aided by

the fact that flags of nations not in action are sensibly banned from arenas.

The supporters' prize, as ever, goes to the Dutch, who won best fans at Euro 96 by a bright orange street. Two Dutch supporters, Bert Bakering and Peter Vos, trail from event to event with orange wigs and umbrellas hats, another Dutch woman wears clogs to every event and refused to be discouraged by a narrowly-avoided nasty fall at the swimming. At the indoor volleyball, Dutch fans somehow found inflatable orange plastic hammers to wave when the team were doing well and one fan expressed his feelings through an orange puppet that led chants from the end of his hand.

Boring it isn't. "We like to think we are the extra man, a small edge for our teams and

competitors," said Bola, a 30-stone Brazilian who is effectively a professional sports fan. His copious expenses as a round-the-world supporter of Brazilian teams funded by a Rio company in the certain knowledge that few television directors will resist the urge to use his image in a quiet moment.

Representing Britain off the track and mat is Peter Cross, whom you will inevitably see on television over the next few weeks. Cross, from Dawlish in Devon, is hard to ignore, dressed in an Arab costume complete with headress made entirely out of the Union Jack. "I have had my picture taken so many times that it is starting to get exhausting," he said.

"But it's nice to get to know different people from different countries. And it's not so hard to start a conversation because

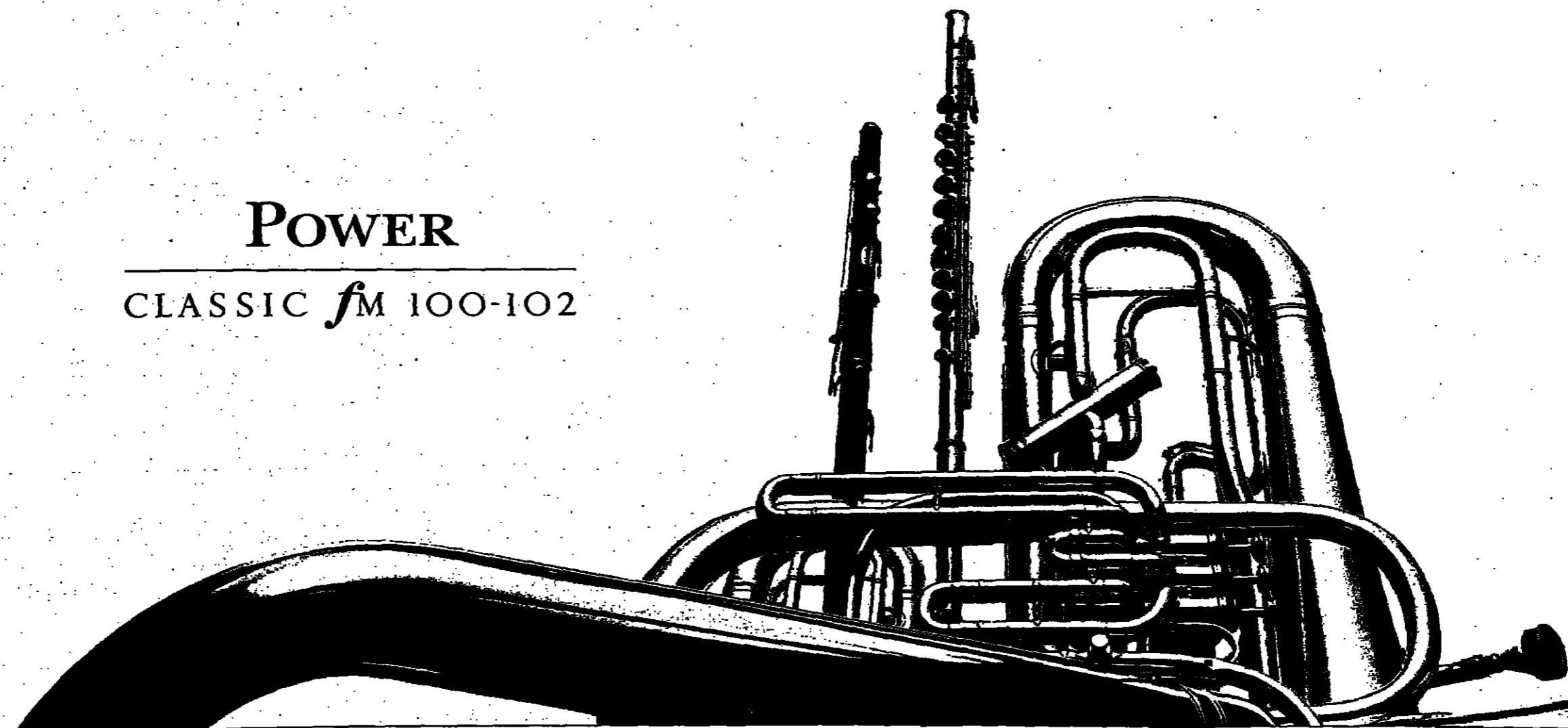
everyone is here for the same reason and the Americans are so friendly anyway."

The majority of fans in Atlanta, though, are American—in fact around 70 per cent of them are not even from out of state. Far more tickets were sold to Georgians than the organisers expected, upsetting plans for a killing hatched by hotels and traders. "The town is packed but there are too many people coming in for the day from Georgia, buying a burger and a T-shirt, seeing the events and then going straight home," said one angry stall owner.

But they are here sure enough, the Americans punctuating every event with their firm "Yu-Ess-Ay" chant, a statement more than an exhortation from a nation that gets

Continued on page 15

POWER
CLASSIC *fm* 100-102



Blair has got this wrong

WHEN Tony Blair became leader of the Labour Party two years ago he spoke often and powerfully about the need for Labour to become a more inclusive political culture, encouraging debate, respecting different points of view, looking for answers in other political traditions. The events of the past week suggest that these admirable intentions have now been abandoned. As power nears, inclusiveness and pluralism are out; party discipline and doing things the leader's way are in. In this way, Mr Blair has turned out not to be such a different politician after all.

This week's shadow cabinet reshuffle is worrying evidence of this reversion to type. On Wednesday, Clare Short got 218 votes in the shadow cabinet elections and came third from the top of the poll. Twenty-four hours later, she was moved from her job shadowing transport and exiled to overseas development. Attempts to present this as anything other than a demotion are worthy of the Soviet Communist Party in its heyday. The truth is that Ms Short has been sidelined to a job which does not carry

Cabinet status in government. In other words, she is on her way out.

Ms Short had become a pretty good shadow transport secretary. Ironically, she was not afraid to take unpopular decisions, particularly against the rationalisation of the railways. But she has been punished because she speaks her mind on issues and in ways which are inconvenient to the party leadership. We do not agree with everything she says but a lot of it is worth saying. Ms Short is an imperfect politician but her readiness to say what she thinks is a strength and not, as Mr Blair sees it, a weakness. The weakness was to sack her.

This inability to tolerate those who are deemed to have spoken out of turn is also what lies behind the move of Chris Smith away from social security. Mr Smith had just invested a year in mastering a new and complicated brief with great skill. Now he is gone — in a swap with Harriet Harman that may not be a demotion but it is certainly a mark of displeasure. Mr Smith is whispered against because he would not think sufficiently fashionable thoughts about the welfare state.

At least it is clear that Mr Smith will be in Mr Blair's cabinet, where he belongs. That cannot now be said with confidence of Ms Short. And nor, though with less anxiety from this quarter, can it now be said of Michael Meacher, Tom Clarke or Derek Foster either. Mr Blair has a problem with supply and demand here. He has too many expectant colleagues (27 of them) chasing too few (23) cabinet posts after the election. At least four of the current hopefuls will be dis-

appointed, and the distribution of jobs suggests that Clarke, Foster, Meacher and Short are now the most likely to be discarded from the final squad. Mr Blair has not said so, but it is evident he intends to disregard the party rule requiring him to give cabinet posts to those elected this week — and rightly so.

Perhaps, after the summer, the events of this week will seem less worrying than today. Perhaps, as Mr Blair hopes, the imminence of the election will concentrate minds on yet another show of party loyalty for the sake of the longed-for victory. Perhaps the party conference will simply be intoxicated with the prospect of power. Yet Mr Blair is taking increasing risks with his party's loyalty. His response to disagreement seems increasingly disciplinary and punitive. It is alienating people who ought to be his natural supporters. Maybe he should think the unthinkable; that he is getting it a bit wrong.

defects even in the early civil justice model. What began as a civil justice system has been turned into a system of injustice. Hence the importance of Lord Woolf's final report published yesterday: 600 pages of detailed changes in the most radical review of the system for 100 years. Thousands of people with serious grievances over medical negligence, personal injury, housing, etc should cheer.

There are a few lawyers who still defend the system. Get them to read Woolf's delays which have lengthened from an already unbelievable two years to three; the uncertainty which citizens face about costs, length of trial, procedures; the obscene manner in which costs have escalated. All social justice students should read annex three of the report: a detailed analysis of over 2,000 cases. Early reviews had established that for every £100 gained in personal injury compensation, lawyers walked away with £25. Woolf has found much worse. For claims of less than £12,500, the legal fees of just the winning party in 40 per cent of cases were over £10,000 with 10 per cent over £20,000. At the most extreme, one claim for £1,000 cost £26,000. In the words of Lord Woolf: "A system which pays more in lawyers' fees than in compensation to accident victims is indefensible."

So who's at fault? Four groups should be in the dock: judges for their poor control over cases; court administrators for their inadequate administration of the system; lawyers for the greed with which they have milked the system; and ministers for their timidity in refusing to take the legal system on.

Woolf's first aim is to divert large numbers away from litigation. It is too cumbersome and too expensive for many disputes. He wants to see alternative ways of resolving disputes like arbitration, mediation and conciliation: from small consumers to big business. Beyond there would be three tiers: small claims where citizens would be certain about the costs, length and timetable; fast track under which there would be tight control over costs, time and procedure; and multi-track for more complicated cases.

Why should this work when so many previous reviews — one less than 10 years ago — have failed? Yesterday the main parties were welcoming it. Judges, lawyers, consumer groups. The chief architect, Woolf, now sits in the strategic judicial seat of Master of the Rolls and his fellow reformer, Sir Richard Scott, is head of Civil Justice. Judges who fail to become active trial managers will be taking on the senior judiciary, not just ministers.

Of course serious doubts remain. There is no strategic plan for the expansion of mediation and arbitration services and a rejection of compulsory arbitration which happens in parts of America and Australia. The lawyers, who have lived off hourly fees, will remain suspicious. Restructuring the attitudes of the judiciary is a huge cultural challenge. And neither major political party has backed it yet, although the Lord Chancellor did embrace the main thrust of the interim Woolf Report which was on the same lines. Ironically, the Lord Chancellor has been a better friend in this field than Labour. Delay is not in the electorate's interest.

Repairing the Rolls

ONCE upon a time there was a much admired Rolls-Royce in Britain. Instead of wheels it had wings. Its proper name was the civil justice system but its "owners", the lawyers, always talked about "our Rolls-Royce system of justice". In reality, as Dickens documented over 100 years ago, there were serious

Huge areas of Africa are threatened by the coup in Burundi, partly as western and African countries have still never come to terms with the Rwanda conflict, MARTIN WOOLLACOTT argues. So who should be calling the shots?

A land split right down the middle

WHEN the killing starts again in some part of Africa, or when it is noticed that it is still going on or getting worse, western countries slip into a familiar oscillation. They swing between blaming themselves and blaming Africans, between urging and opposing military intervention, between caring and not caring. The problem is the usual one. It is not that we do not care but that we only care in bursts, so that policy becomes a series of last-minute rescue efforts. Thus it is now with Burundi, where a coup has underlined the general neglect of a crisis affecting a large area of Central Africa. That crisis endangers not only Burundi but Rwanda and Zaire, and even Uganda and Tanzania. Its scale is partly due to the failure of western and African countries to deal with the unfinished business of the Rwandan conflict.

A partly international war is being waged in the region between extremist Hutu groups and physical security by covert means and armed Hutu extremists.

The new regime there has, naturally, endorsed the principle of ethnic peace, but it is also calling up Tutsi youth for militia service. An intense campaign against Hutu rebels is likely. The Tutsi-dominated security forces have notably failed to distinguish between Hutu forces and civilians in the past. It may be, therefore, that this coup is a disaster. But caution is advised since there already was a disaster in Burundi, and indeed in the

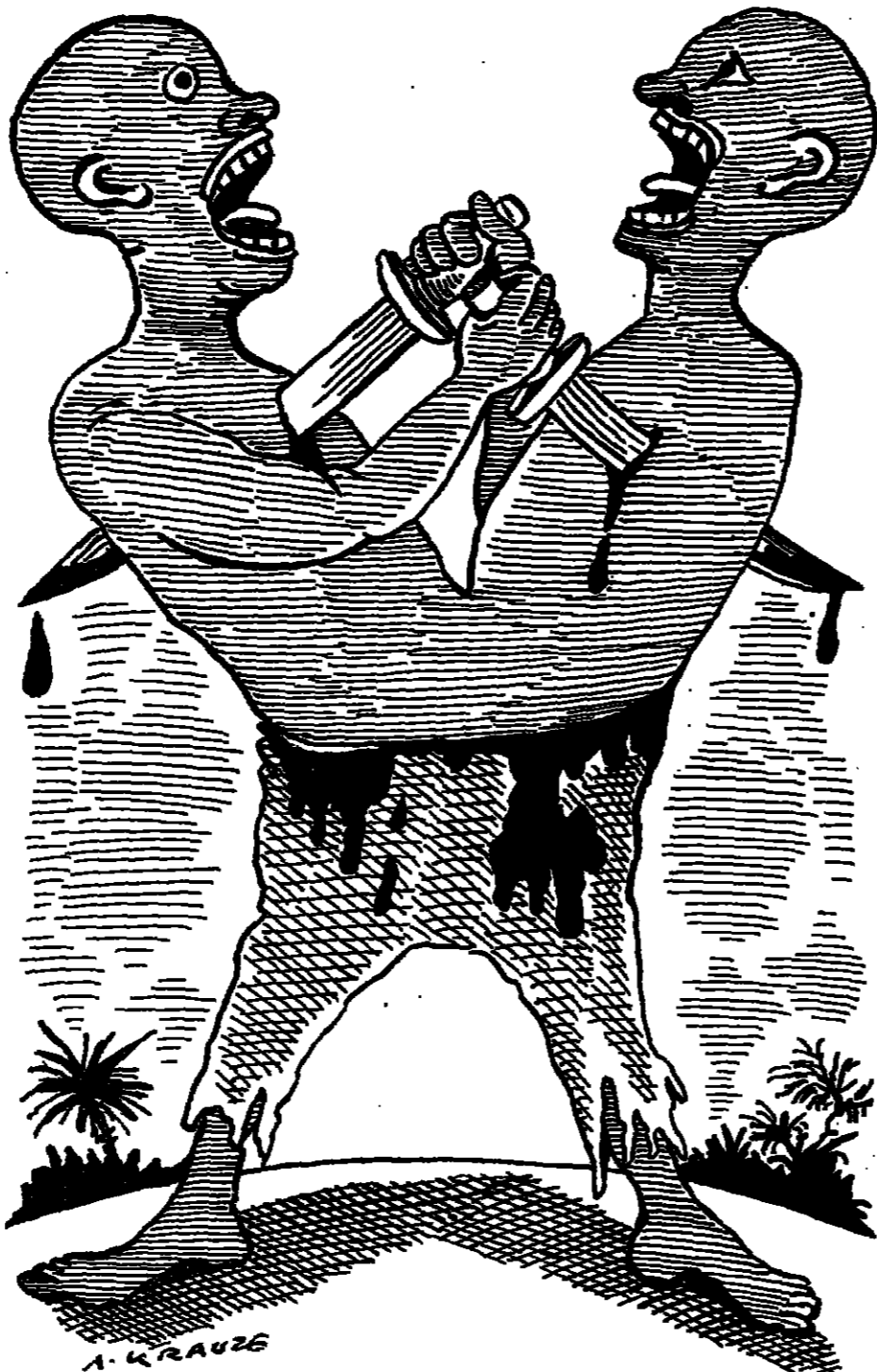
region as a whole. The problem in Burundi is not so much that the international community has failed to act there, but that it has failed in the management of the broader conflict.

When the Rwandan Patriotic Front's forces won in that country, the Hutu regime's troops, most of the leadership, and up to a million of its people fled into Zaire, with some also going to Burundi and other countries. In Zaire, unopposed and not much noticed by the international community, the Hutu leaders transformed the refugee camps into a social base for war, apparently with the acquiescence of President Mobutu.

They were allowed to escape the consequences of their well-deserved defeat in Rwanda. They ethnically cleansed that part of Zaire of Tutsis, who also used to live there, and of other inconvenient ethnic groups. From there they have struck into Rwanda, assassinating government officials, and they have offered training to the Hutu of Burundi.

Their influence on the Burundi rebels can only be of the most poisonous kind. Undoubtedly, the extremist Rwanda Hutus see all this as one war which will only end with the overthrow of governments in both Rwanda and Burundi and their replacement by regimes which would solve the Tutsi "question" by a combination of killing, displacement, and oppression.

For all the atrocities for which Tutsis have been responsible in Rwanda and Burundi, they must in the long run be more disposed to compromise, as well as more concerned with security. As minorities, they cannot otherwise survive. The perpetual oppression of the Hutu majority, whatever was attemped in the past, is not a serious option now. Tutsis in



Rwanda understand this well, while Tutsis in Burundi, whose dominant position has only been diluted, understand it less well. Hutu leaders, by contrast, can think in terms of getting rid of Tutsis, or at least of displacing them completely from all positions of power, privilege, or wealth. Some still do, and they are calling the shots. Literally, in Zaire, and parts of Burundi. They would do so again in Rwanda if they could. This Central African war is not a senseless affair, or one in which outsiders should have no sympathies.

A better course over the last two years would have been for the international community to have prevented the creation of a Hutu extremist base in Zaire, to have pushed much harder for the return of refugees, and to have provided far more funding for Rwandan government projects. There should also have been more money and help for the war crimes tribunal which has moved with terrible slowness. Swifter justice would have done two things. It would have signalled the end of a time when leaders,

whether Hutu or Tutsi, could get away with murder. And a squaring of accounts would have helped in the normalisation of relations between Tutsi and Hutu in Rwanda. To help Rwanda become as much a model of Tutsi-Hutu normalisation as possible, and to root out Hutu extremists in Zaire — these should have been the objectives. If they had been achieved, it seems reasonable to speculate, the situation in Burundi would have been less dangerous. Instead, little was done about Zaire, while in Rwanda relations between the

Eccentrics revisited

Rattling the bars



Ian Aitken

THE DEATHS this week of Mad Mitch and Jessica Mitford made the obituary pages of the newspapers by far the least dismal read on offer in an otherwise grim few days of blood-soaked news. It is rare for two such colourful people to be memorialised on successive days.

But what made it especially poignant is that the two people, though both quintessentially British, could hardly have been more different. I suspect that Lt Colonel Mitchell would cheerfully have had Comrade Mitford shot if he'd ever staged a counter-revolution — though perhaps he'd respect for a peer's daughter might have saved her.

Both were seriously eccentric — and, as both of them knew full well, it was an essential part of their stock in trade. I still light a candle in my heart when I recall Jessica's Desert Island Discs, in which she made poor old Roy Plomley play things like the Internationale, the Red Flag, and assorted International Brigade songs.

Mitchell's madness, however, was on a different plane. There was a definite method in it, as he demonstrated when he planned his most famous/notorious coup, the recapture of the Crater district of Aden from the local equivalent of what he probably called "the fuzzy wuzzies".

My witness to this was the late Lew Gardner, who was reporting the affair at the time. He and other hacks were invited to attend at a certain hour, when the attacking force was due to set off behind the regimental plane. Transport would be laid on.

Gardner remarked that this was extremely generous, but added that there wouldn't be much point in it unless the reporters were given an opportunity to put over their stories. The good colonel took

the point at once, asking when they needed to file and how long it would take. Once advised, he rescheduled his plan of attack. He got his headlines, as planned.

But of Mad Mitch's bravery, Gardner was in no doubt. After the successful operation, the colonel chose to brief his guests on the roof of a building in the town. A sudden burst of automatic fire sent the hacks and the accompanying jocks diving for cover. When they stood up again, sheepishly dusting themselves down, Mitchell was still upright. He hadn't paused in his dissertation by a single syllable.

A fine fellow, then? Well, he once brought an ex-officer of Hitler's Condor Legion — the outfit responsible for Guernica — into the Garrick Club as his guest. He was genuinely puzzled when many members took forceful exception. His attitude: well, we're all anti-Bolsheviks now.

□ CLEARLY, Clare Short was lucky not to come top in Wednesday's shadow cabinet "elections". If coming third secured her a modest demotion, the mind boggles at what outright triumph might have brought. Shadow minister for blotters, ink-wells and paper-clips, perhaps he would respect for a peer's daughter might have saved her.

But if her demotion was an insult to anyone, it was surely even more of an insult to the Parliamentary Labour Party than to Ms Short. What Tony Blair was saying was that the elected members of his party can do what they jolly well like, but he isn't going to pay a blind bit of notice.

On the other hand, one can't help wondering where Ms Short would have come in the ballot if she'd been 24 hours earlier with her whinge about the alleged nastiness of politics in (of all papers) the Daily Express. As President Truman might have told her: "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."

□ POLITICAL correctness of a Blairite nature seems to have engulfed most of the new Statesman. But it evidently has not yet penetrated the small-ads section, and certainly not the lonely hearts column.

The following advertisement slipped through the thought police last week: "Shy but never boring female, 39, Labour Party member, London-based, seeks similar man, sensitive to women, who shares my politics, for friendship and to moan about Tony Blair."

Smallweed



SOME SCIENTISTS claimed this week to have found the source of the Amazon at a point high in the Andes where a trickle emerges from an underground glacier. Such claims are always conten-

tious. As Tim Radford recalled in Wednesday's Guardian, the dispute over the source of the Nile between John Hanning Speke and Richard Burton became so bitter that Speke killed himself.

In the circumstances, it seemed odd to read the unqualified claim, in the context of the newly-established Thames Walk, that the source of the Thames can be found in a field near Kembie in Gloucestershire. Intrepid as ever, Smallweed decided to go in search of the source for himself. This is not an easy endeavour. First you have to find the information in the Cirenchester which will give you instructions and a rudimentary map. Then you have to find a parking space off the Cirenchester-Tetbury Road, immediately beyond the low bridge close by the Thames Head Inn. Then you must either risk crossing a rail-

way or endure a short walk back along the A433 — an ordeal quite unmatched. I guess, by anything ever encountered by Speke or Burton. In time you will come to the source. You will know it's the source because there's a stone with a plaque, which looks to be covered in plaque, on which the Conservators of the Thames 1857-1974 assert that this is the source. You'd never have guessed it otherwise, since there isn't even the merest trickle of water.

Though constantly menaced by cows and rabbits, Smallweed intrepidly followed the Thames Path for at least a mile. A prominent ditch appeared at one point and even a modest bridge, but water? Not one drip. It made one fear for London. If this was the state of the source of the Thames, could the Palace of Westminster and St Thomas's Hospital be facing each other today

across an arid ditch? It even made Smallweed warm to the counter-claims of Seven Springs, south of Cheltenham, which, according to a book by Hilarie Bellon, has a much superior altitude, generates far more water, and doesn't suffer nearly so much from drought. Or even those of Lechlade, the point at which the Thames, having collected various tributaries, becomes a river, big enough to accommodate a regatta (there's one this weekend). I do not wish to exaggerate my sufferings on behalf of my readers, but I have to add that my expedition was also uncommonly hot.

AS EXPLAINED by my alter ego last week, I have not been quite myself in recent weeks, having felt an urgent need to spend a few months in communion with the spirit of the Marquis of Vauvenar-

gues. I was therefore unable to offer my usual predictions for the performance during the cricket season of Yorkshire CCC.

Readers will no doubt remember my uncanny forecast two years ago that Yorkshire would finish 14th in spite of the signing of the talented Australian Michael Bevan. They actually finished 13th. So here is this year's prediction. I foresee a recovery which may even precipitate Yorkshire into top place in the championship table at the end of July. Whether this happy condition persists to the end of the season could of course be affected by injuries, prevailing winds, luck with the toes and the tides, etc. Watch out for a bit of a blip against Somerset. My one fear is that, carried away with the arrogance of success, the club might decide to concentrate all its matches at Headingly, perhaps with the

odd game or two at Scarborough, eliminating Harrogate, Bradford and Sheffield. Please tell me this is only a nightmare.

THE MOST serious threat to the finances of the soon-to-be-integrated BBC World Service has yet to be adequately exposed. Under the NHS-style internal market, producers of programmes are charged for everything, even a call to the legendary pronunciation unit. To ask how to pronounce the capital of a tiny African province (as in: should I say *Waldgrave* or *Wtra Grace please?*) costs a tanner (pronounced: tennor).

I WAS sorry to see that the death had occurred of Prince Albrecht of Bavaria, who some believe should have been King of England, or at least of Scotland, since Albrecht was in

direct line of succession from the Stuarts, which the present lot are not. That Albrecht lived in a castle with 3,425 pairs of antlers and tartan wallpaper is endearing enough, but most distinguished of all was the quality of the complaints when newspapers mentioned him.

This from the Independent on Sunday for instance: Sir, Harold Brooks-Baker speaks of Prince Albrecht of Bavaria as a candidate for the British throne. He should have pointed out that while the prince is indeed distantly descended from the sister of Britain's King James II, who lost his throne in 1688, he is also the grandson of Bavaria's Ludwig III, who did not lose his until 1918. Before Prince Albrecht pursues his claim in Britain, he will surely hope to be restored in his native kingdom. Donald Foreman, The Monarchist League, Or this from the Times: Sir,

Your excellent obituary of Duke Albrecht rightly describes him as the recognised descendant of the Royal House of Stuart. While this society recognises and upholds this claim, it has never been its custom to drink to the *de jure* — "King Albert I of England" at its annual dinner, as you allege. Eueline Cruickshank, chairman, the Royal Stuart Society.

WITHDRAWAL of acceptance: The Rev David Burrell, priest-in-charge, Hauxley with Wetherden (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) has withdrawn his acceptance of the post of priest-in-charge, Coldirk with Oxwhitton, Hornington, Brisley, Great Ryburgh, Little Ryburgh and Tetterton, Dunton and Shereford with Dunton (Norwich). Church news, the Times.

سورة من الاموال

Certain death for the operatic maidens



Martin Kettle

THEY SAY of opera that it ain't over till the fat lady sings. But the real truth about most operas is that they ain't over till the fat lady, or increasingly these days the thin lady, dies.

Little thought and its disturbing implications. But when you begin to think about it, it's an idea which seems hard to put back in the bottle. When that soprano who has just died comes to take her call, what exactly are we applauding? Not just the soprano, I fear, but also the death as well.

Städt, a favourite on Anderson's list is the heroine of Auber's *La Muette de Portici*, who leaps into the mouth of Vesuvius in the middle of an eruption. No wonder the work is rarely performed, though this is not the least of its curiosities, since the said heroine is the mute of the work's title, and you would think it was a bit of a handicap to write an opera where the main character does not sing at all.

which it is, and death is arguably our greatest fear, then this conjunction is hardly surprising. Not that we are required to take all operatic deaths terribly seriously. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, many such deaths all too rarely touch the heart strings. Few who have ever been to an opera have not at some time sighed over the poorly and sweating hero, wounded in the most profane and unconvincing manner, manoeuvres himself into his singing position to deliver that last anguished and perfectly turned aria to his wife/lover/mother/son/country/king, before expiring awfully as the curtain falls and the final orchestral chords come crashing tragically around him.

PERA composers seem to require women to be heroines, forcing them through vocal hoops and technical extremes, craving the wild applause of the gallery, only to do away with them, often violently, in the climactic moments of the opera.

You have to admit that there is a question here that is worth discussing. It is as though men require opera to convey to them an inherently impossible vision of women. Women appear on the operatic stage as brilliant singers, glamorous stars, and icons of passion. And, since women aren't like that, and can't in the end be like that, the men then kill them. And since so many of these women die at the very end of the opera, it seems that there is a certain ritualistic quality about the serving up of this vengeance.

not real people, I suppose you could also say that their deaths are not real deaths. Undoubtedly many of them are not worth taking seriously. You walk away from the theatre with never a second thought about most characters' passing. Such deaths are perfunctory and without much meaning.

great opera, but it somehow feels like it. Lulu is written by a composer who throughout his life was torn between the old and the new, tradition and modernity, respectability and radicalism. But it is the one great opera (with the possible exception of Verdi's *Falstaff*) which is written from a position of unalterable sympathy for the predicament of women. It stands in direct opposition to the tradition from which it derives.

Victims of shocking sexual abuse in children's homes are being denied compensation because they later got criminal records. MAGGIE O'KANE reports

Victims doubly abused by the system

AN BOTHAM is fighting for "thousands of pounds damages because he says he's been called a racist and I'm fighting over a popy couple of grand after being sexual abused for years. You can't help feeling there's one law for the famous and rich and one for guys like me."

services and the National Children's Home charity concluded that at least another 70 abuses are believed to have operated within the system, supporting and recommending each other for jobs. In one of the worst of the Liverpool homes, three out of the four dormitory buildings were run by paedophile housemasters.



sight out the back door. So here he was, driving up the M56 in a purple Mini with his housemaster, was there to meet them when they arrived at the school. He remembers that Monday 20 years ago very well. Langshaw was 23 then. He was dressed in a shirt and tie, but dead cool. He showed them around the sports centre, the pool, the play barn. It didn't look too bad.

"proud of" — a "good clean-cut all-American boy". On November 25, 1994, Langshaw, who worked at the home for 11 years, pleaded guilty to 30 counts of indecent assault, buggery, actual bodily harm and gross indecency at Warrington Crown Court. For 25 years he worked with children who needed special care, handicapped children and children believed to be victims of sexual abuse.

abuse for another eight years. As Glasgow said at the time, "It could not have been plainer. I was a respected professional, so what hope was there for a child."

remembers praying that the housemaster would pass him by. Anything that would stop the hand on his shoulder and the voice that whispered, "Come on, get your things."

special assessment unit. A second was another blond, blue-eyed 13-year-old boy from Manchester who spent the years after he left the children's home in and out of prison "beating up ponces".

Touts, bouts and knockouts

Continued from page 13 too few chances to show off as a superpower in sport. "You gotta remember," said Cogan Brown, a student from California, "that where you have soccer in Europe and all sorts of team sports where you can play internationally, our two best sports — football and baseball — don't have real worldwide championships. The appeal of the Olympics for us is that we get to beat up on other countries at sports and feel proud of our country and what we can achieve."

and packed them in for boxing, fencing, handball, water polo, in fact almost everything — even the Greco-Roman wrestling.

more than a trip on Atlanta's public transport. There are so many parking lots turned over to stallholders and roads closed off in the Olympic ring, a circle with a radius of about five miles where all the major venues nestle, that a city where cars have been utterly dominant has had to change over to public transport almost overnight, and it shows.

city but I wish the people here would learn some manners on the Marts," said Jason Lake, who was struggling home from work.

equally unavoidable part of Olympic life. They call it Piss Row, a long line of gift high bluster cubicles, 65 of them to be precise, on the hard shoulder of a five-lane freeway flyover just outside the Georgia World Congress, a vast cavernous convention centre where six Olympic sports are being played.

But Olympic fans are facing up to their adversaries with a smile. Indeed it is probably the fans who are living the Olympic dream more than most of the athletes — simply here to take part in any small way. They came, for instance, to fill the hall in their USA T-shirts and hats and bandanas for the men's team handball, a sport that has little American tradition. "I don't really understand the rules, I guess, and I couldn't follow why the referee blew his whistle most of the time," said Matty Johnson, who had flown in from Los Angeles.

standing silently, the only indication they need tickets being the number of fingers they are holding above their head.

But the real Games for any US fans is the struggle to acquire "pins" — metal badges to you and I — the collection of which is an apparent obsession among visitors here. They can be bought at stalls for a few dollars, but the metal lapel badges, deliberately produced in limited quantities by sponsors and companies in town for the Games, act as a secondary currency for favours done, for kindness and friendship shown. But, typically, there is a capitalist edge to it all too, with certain banned and seized pins that illegally use the Olympic rings fetching \$1,000 if you can find someone who has one.

16 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bush war continues

SIR Christopher Bland's comment on the commissioning of World Service programmes from domestic BBC (Letters, July 24) displays a woeful lack of knowledge. In the 17 years I worked in Bush House, I learnt how very different the programmes are. World Service does not broadcast news and news programmes only. It broadcasts on agriculture, science, education and many other topics.

World Service producers, contributors and presenters are steeped in knowledge of the countries to which they are broadcasting. The output of scientific establishments in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, and the effect of their work on the populations of those countries, are the bread and butter of World Service programmes. They are not for the domestic BBC. Broadcasting House staff cannot be expected to have this sort of knowledge.

Laurence Spicer, 108 Trentham Street, London SW18 5DH.

JOHN Birt and Sir Christopher Bland have implied that opponents of the amalgamation of BBC World Service news with domestic BBC news are romantic dinosaurs.

I am a spokesman for one of the largest international humanitarian agencies. I speak to World Service reporters once or twice a week about developments in countries like the Caribbean, Africa and Pakistan. I speak to domestic BBC on similar subjects about once every two months. Domestic producers and reporters tend to be considerably less well-informed, sometimes alarmingly so.

The opposition to the proposed changes arises, not from some retrograde resistance to change per se, but from this sense that something of unparalleled quality is about to be jeopardised. It has nothing to do with romanticism or a generation gap — it is a question of geography.

Neither Birt nor Bland has ever lived or worked in one of the many parts of the world where the World Service really matters. If they had, they might understand that it is not an ingredient that can be mixed and matched with other bits of the BBC to produce a healthy corporate whole.

Sally, World Service, governors are similarly unqualified. Placing the future of the World Service in their hands is like entrusting a kidney transplant to a tree-surgeon.

Rupert Colville, Rue de Rive 32, 1260 Nyon, Switzerland.

CAN I really be the only Guardian reader who doesn't give a toss about the future of the World Service?

Roy Goodwin, 24a Athelney Road, London SE15 3EL.

A bet on the nation's future

YOUR article on gambling highlighting mixed messages from the Home Office (Wheel of Fortune, July 24) should have highlighted the contradictions about "hard" and "soft" forms of gambling. The Home Office has a crude distinction which states: "Hard" gambling is a colloquism for those forms of gambling which are considered to carry greater potential risks than others, usually because of the high or rapid staking associated with them."

Basically, this means that activities which allow the possibility of continuous gambling are the most addiction-inducing. From the definition it can be concluded that "soft" gambling refers to activities such as the National Lottery, football pools and bingo — and

that "hard" gambling includes roulette, blackjack, fruit machines, horse/greyhound racing, betting and instant scratchcards. There is much debate about the negative consequences of advertising "hard" forms like casino gambling yet it is clear that "hard" gambling is already being advertised in the form of scratchcards.

Showing the relationship between high/rapid staking and addiction has great practical importance. Not only could potentially dangerous forms of gambling be identified, but effective and selective legislation could be formulated. (Dr) Mark Griffiths, SEN Lecturer in Psychology, Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU.

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Life's tough at the top

MAY I congratulate you on David Hencke's report (Leak shows tycoon eyed welfare office, July 25). The evidence of John Beckwith's interest in the sale of DSS benefit offices may strengthen public curiosity to know the terms on which such a sale might be conducted.

In the words of the Minister of State, Lord Mackay of Arden, "our sites will be sold to somebody who will manage them and supply what we need back to us". This means the Secretary of State is contracting out responsibility for the provision of benefits.

This, however, is a duty for which the Secretary of State remains accountable to Parliament. If Parliament is to hold the Secretary of State to that duty, it must be able to satisfy itself that the contract for the proposed sale leaves him with sufficient powers to discharge that duty. That means that all considerations of commercial confidentiality for the intended Parliament must be set aside.

It also means we need a government assurance that no sale will be completed before Parliament has had a chance to debate the proposed terms. Can Peter Lilley give us that assurance?

Earl Russell, House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

Labour and equality

PERHAPS we should preserve Roy Hattersley for ever in a tub of lard, Potter-style, in order that he may debate with successive Labour leaderships the value of Labour's traditional aims and values in modern settings (Balance of power, July 25).

He is absolutely right to stress the importance of a firm philosophy, so necessary to ensure that concepts of equality mean something real to those who are looking for a better life.

It would seem that there are those within New Labour who now only look to election campaigns, refusing to enter into real debate about the very difficult tasks Labour will face in power. For them, Hattersley's constitution is not a problem. The constitution might not like, or understand, New Labour but come the election, it is argued, he will have nowhere else to go; he will have to vote Labour. And they are probably right.

But, after winning power, Labour must move beyond simply the rhetoric of equality if it is to improve the standard of life for Hattersley's constituent and his family, and for countless others like them throughout the country.

Hattersley's constituent will surely be surprised to realise that materially things may not change that quickly for himself, but he will want real evidence that his children will have the chance of a better future because of Labour. It will not be easy and Hattersley is right to talk about "real age", for it will take real guts

to take on the entrenched positions of those in the establishment who adopt the language of equality without any real commitment to significant change.

Labour's members, and traditional supporters, need to be convinced that the guts are still really there; that we can make the really difficult decisions; that we can take on the vested interests that have benefited so much during the Tory years. We cannot afford a "New Labour: soft touch" world.

Modernisation is always a crucial process. But clear philosophy and core values really do need to remain at the heart of an evolving party.

Andy Howell, Chair, Labour Reform, PO Box 5219, Birmingham B15 8DY.

GORDON Brown wants to attack the root causes of our society's ills (Fighting talk from embattled Mr Brown, July 26). It is not enough to throw money at the poor: New Labour's welfare-to-work policy is the fundamental remedy for poverty. It is difficult to believe that Mr Brown can seriously believe this, not least because of contemporary capitalism's incapacity to maintain an adequate supply of reasonably secure, reasonably well-paid jobs.

His failure to address systematic failure is evidence elsewhere. Being "serious about tackling inequality", he says he intends to introduce a minimum wage; his "determination to act has hardened as a result of the recent explosion in low-paid work."

If we were courageous, we would admit that a minimum wage is not a fundamental remedy for inequality resulting from low pay. Low pay is a symptom, rather than a root cause; it reflects the pecuniary British finance and corporate system's dominant concern with short-term profit maximisation at the expense of investment in production, research and development, and a well-trained, fairly rewarded and secured workforce.

J Wilfred Attenborough, 6 Spital Street, Lincoln LN1 3EG.

To bring on the champions, first bring on the cash

I READ with some cynicism of the plans for a sporting centre of excellence (Major lofs £200 million into reviving sport, July 25). Any increase in sports funding will have an impact but it is at the grassroots level that funding is most inadequate.

I am a local councillor in Manchester and have been involved for the last three months in assisting fund-raising for travel and related expenses for the NW Olympic Judo Squad to participate in Atlanta. In spite of lobbying at government level, no additional monies were forthcoming and most of the costs have been borne by the athletes, including two para-olympians themselves. The amount we wanted to raise was £10,000, a drop in the ocean compared to the millions made by the commercial sponsors and the Lottery company, but all attempts at sponsorship failed.

Sports organisation in this country is run by an elite set of amateurs and it is amazing that we win anything at all in my view, in spite of the fact that we are selected to represent Britain, we should pay the costs associated with that representation both for training and the direct costs of participation. I am sure that the judges and

associated officials sent to Atlanta have not paid their own expenses. We really must make up our minds whether we want winners and be prepared to pay for them.

Val Stevens, 268 Ryebank Road, Manchester M21 9LZ.

WHEN the National Lottery was presented to a fat-cat organisation, the Prime Minister promised that its money would never replace government funding. Grants were to be allocated by an independent body. What right has Mr Major to appropriate Lottery money for an extension of sports training and development? Whilst I approve the aim, I deplore the means.

Ian Mann, 3 Church Road, Fleet, Hants GU11 3RU.

MR MAJOR's announcement is most welcome. Unfortunately, it is inevitable that most of us will be unable to watch graduates of this sporting academy perform at any level because Mr Major will pay them small fortunes to appear exclusively on Sky TV.

Tim Cohn, The Old Rectory, Greenham, Hornacrest, Lincs LN9 6NT.

Talking Turkey on torture

THOUSANDS of political prisoners from Turkey have been on hunger strike now for over 60 days (Six dead in Turkish jail fast, July 25). They are protesting about the horrific treatment they are forced to endure and the restrictions on legal visits, chaining of prisoners during exercise time, are some examples.

In December 1995, the European Parliament voted in favour of a request to Customs Union with Turkey. There was a fear amongst the Kurdish community that were Turkey to be allowed to join the Customs Union, any leverage that the rest of Europe could exert on Turkey, to improve human rights, would end. Sadly, this prophecy has been proved true. Atrocities against

Rough justice

IN your report on the recommendation to prison governors to reduce exercise for prisoners to half an hour a day (July 24), you make it clear that the instructions are subject to the proviso that an exception should be made for inmates held in segregation units as a punishment for bad behaviour. Can this report be correct?

Does this mean that defendants committed to prison by this and other courts for very bad criminal behaviour will have to behave very badly in prison if they wish to secure more than 30 minutes' exercise in the fresh air each day?

Alan J M Baldwin, Clerk to the Justices, Petty Sessions, Hounslow, Market Place, Brentford, Middx TW8 6EN.

Bringing families together in El Salvador

WE REJECT the unsubstantiated insinuation in your article (El Salvador seeks to find its children, July 26) that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had of the rest of the world during the conflict in El Salvador. As our basic principles state, the ICRC maintains, in all situations where it is called upon to act, complete neutrality and total independence. The respect of these fundamental principles accounts for the success of our humanitarian operations throughout the world.

In El Salvador, all parties (government and FMLN) had complete trust in our organisation. This was vividly illustrated by the fact that both sides asked us to act as neutral intermediary and facilitator in the peace process. The ICRC fulfilled these functions discreetly and successfully.

Secondly, the ICRC delegation in El Salvador conducted, *inter alia*, humanitarian activities in favour of children affected by the conflict, which were not discussed in your article. Thus, as of 1980, ICRC delegates visited and registered numerous children detained in either so-called "centers for minors" in military barracks or in various hospitals. In the large majority of cases, our tracing service was able to re-establish contacts between the families.

The ICRC also undertook

A Country Diary

MACHYNLLETH: Lately, in the diaries of a botanist who used to live in these parts, I came upon this entry for June 29, 1854: "At Pistyll Cain I climbed down to the foot of the falls and found Tunbridge filmy-fern." Finding that, I wondered if this not very common fern still flourishes in the shadows of that gorge. So, next day I took myself off to Coedy Brenin, parked in one of the spots thoughtfully provided by Forest Enterprise and set off along a trail above the River Mawddach babbling gently over its stones. It seemed strange to be searching in Wales for a fern with so Welsh a name, but the botanical archives insist that this little moss-like fern was indeed first discovered at Tunbridge. I walked through miles of North American conifers until Wales began to assert itself in the form of sessile oaks, which had somehow escaped

Which way is Waterloo, anyway?

DONALD Sassoon (Leaving Our Waterloo, July 23) suggests a European charter setting out the principles and objectives of the EU. While this might provide a welcome airing of issues of social and economic policy, I am doubtful that any fruitful discussion on Europe can take place in the present climate of ignorance.

We need instead an information campaign, such as that launched last week by the German government on the subject of the single currency. The British government's contrasting reluctance in supplying us with basic factual information on the long-term movement toward Emu has meant that only recently has the nation begun to wonder about its far-reaching implications.

Without a concerted campaign, this country will remain

The Joanna Coles Interview

When he writes that politics has for too long taken second place to economics in the EU, isn't it the other way around and always has been. Walter Hallstein, the first president of the EEC, declared in his book, *United Europe 1962*: "We are not interested in form a larger market to be richer, or a trading bloc to further our commercial interests... we are in politics."

Sean McElryan, 2a Charnwood Close, Newbury RG14 1XA.

WILLIAM CONDRY

July 27 1996



When Eden put the country in deep water

On the 40th anniversary of the Suez crisis, MICHAEL ADAMS, then our Middle East correspondent, looks back on the day Egypt's president gave the code word for his troops to seize control of the canal

ON JULY 26, 1956, I drove from Cairo to Alexandria to hear a speech by Gamal Abdel Nasser, president of the Egyptian republic. It was the fourth anniversary of the day when King Farouk left Egypt, ousted by the revolutionary group of young officers among whom Nasser had been the moving spirit.

Nasser took everyone by surprise when he announced the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company. To understand how complete the surprise was you have to know the circumstances and the relative positions of Britain and Egypt 40 years ago.

Britain was still regarded as a great power, with extensive international commitments, particularly in the Middle East, where the Suez Canal was considered almost as vital a part of our national lines of communication as the English Channel. And in charge in Downing Street was Sir Anthony Eden, the acknowledged expert in world affairs.

Egypt, by contrast, was a country only recently emancipated from the status of a virtual colony, ruled by a government as inexperienced as its leader, the first truly independent ruler of Egypt since the Pharaohs.

When Nasser appeared to snatch the Suez Canal from Eden's control (from Eden's point of view) it was as though Jones minor in the third form had cocked a snook at the headmaster.

The way Nasser did it was characteristic of his technique as a conspirator. He posted a trusted associate named Mahmud Yunis down at the canal with a detachment of police at his disposal and with orders to listen to the president's speech on the radio. When he heard a certain password, he was to order the police to take control of all the installations of the Anglo-French Suez Canal to Port Said.

Back in Alexandria, where I was seated within 20 feet of him, Nasser had been speaking for more than two hours and the crowd was restless. He had talked about the high dam, made some jokes about the Americans and now he was going on about the Suez Canal; but what had the canal got to do with the matter in hand, people were asking.

At about 10.30, I think, he said: "The canal had been designed by a Frenchman named de Lesseps, pronouncing the name very clearly and repeating it, we paid little attention. But that was the password Mahmud Yunis was waiting for and by the time Nasser let the rest of us into the secret, by announcing triumphantly that he was nationalising the canal company and would use the profits from the canal to build the high dam, the takeover was complete."

Now it was Eden's turn to be furious and within a couple of hours of hearing the news from Cairo, he was presiding over a meeting of the joint chiefs of staff at Number 10 and was talking about the need to prepare a plan for a military invasion of Egypt to make Nasser "disgorge". It was to be three months before such a plan could be put into effect and during the interim, the country became increasingly divided over the right course of action to deal with what Eden insisted was a dangerous breach of international law and a threat to Britain's livelihood.

For the moment, though, he had the country with him. The day after the nationalisation, the Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell, reflecting the strong pro-Israeli sentiment which then dominated the Labour party, gave Eden his support against "this high-handed and totally unjustifiable step by the Egyptian government". With a single exception, the daily press embarked on an orgy of tub-thumping, from the Times, which carried four leading articles during the following week calling for "decisive action" to "resist the aggressor", to the Liberal News Chronicle, which called for "retaliatory action" and the Labour Daily Herald ("No more Hitler").

The exception was the Manchester Guardian, which observed mildly that "it would be a mistake either to lose our heads with vexation over Colonel Nasser's latest move or to underestimate its aggressiveness" and went on to say that until it could be proved that Nasser had broken some specific

treaty undertaking or had put himself in the wrong by interfering with the free passage of ships through the canal, our government should keep in mind two central facts. First, that provided we could continue to use the canal without interruption, it mattered little who controlled it, especially since the canal was due to revert to Egyptian ownership anyway in 1968. And second, that to take military action against Egypt would be both wrong and misguided, since its likely result would be to cause the canal to be closed, thus defeating our central interest, which was to keep it open.

During the next three months off, the parties stuck to



When Nasser (left) appeared to snatch Suez from Eden's control, it was as though Jones minor had cocked a snook at the headmaster

without them. The climax of this battle of wills came in the middle of September and I was able to witness it at close quarters when I managed, after a battle lasting half the night, to get myself on to an Italian tanker in the first convoy to pass through the canal after the withdrawal of the British and French pilots. By the time I left the ship at Suez, after an uneventful journey beside its Egyptian pilot, I could see for myself that the battle was won.

Perhaps it was too much by then to expect that Eden and Mollet would acknowledge the fact. Their personal prestige was in the balance against Nasser's and opinion in both countries was sharply and bitterly divided between those who wanted to "teach Nasser a lesson" and those of us who could see that force would land us in a situation from which it would be difficult to extricate ourselves.

The end was tragic, though not so tragic as it would have been had the assault on Egypt which the British and French launched in collusion with the Israelis not been stopped by

President Eisenhower. The French were all for going on and presumably would have been ready to occupy Egypt, like Napoleon a century and a half earlier. But the British government, host to its navy and called off the invasion almost as soon as it had begun.

A face-saving arrangement was devised whereby a UN force was brought in to replace the British and French, and Eisenhower ordered the Israelis to get back behind their own border — the only time a US president has acted to restrain Israeli expansionism. So that was that, except of course that the canal was closed, as the Manchester Guardian

had warned that it would be if the European governments went to war with Egypt. As far as Britain was concerned, it was a humiliating conclusion to the crisis and it signalled the end of Britain's hold on the Middle East.

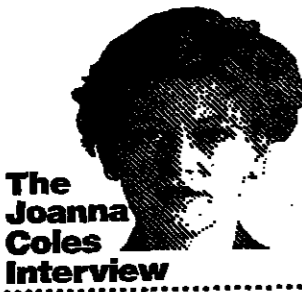
For myself it had been a sad experience since, for the first time in my life, I had felt ashamed of my own government. On the other hand, there was the satisfaction of working for a paper that had come through a prolonged challenge with flying colours. And there was also the fact that once the canal was open again (it took four months to clear the blockship) we found that Britain's relationship with the Arab world was a better and a more realistic one than it had been before the Suez crisis. But it had been a near thing.

Jacqui Lait... 'I have to live off my husband, bless him. I don't think I could manage without him'

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ADLER

The right woman to whip her men into shape

Jacqui Lait relishes her new career in the male-heavy Tory Whips' Office, but she'll still find time for a little, you know, cooking



The Joanna Coles Interview

HOW can I say this without sounding offensive, without at the very least sounding politically incorrect? But when you meet her, it sort of makes sense that Jacqui Lait was the first one to break the mould. Last Wednesday afternoon Lait made political history when it was announced that she was to be the first woman MP to join the Tory Whips' Office — a place where testosterone has dominated proceedings for 180 years and even Margaret Thatcher, at the height of her prime-ministerial powers, was known to shift uncomfortably.

But then again... Jacqui Lait is one of the boys. Even as she phrases the catfist in the House of Commons bar, I sense she would rather be puffing on a cheroot and mouthing silent smoke rings or propping up the bar at Ronnie Scott's with Kenner. Their similarities are striking, they're both Europe, both informal, fun and unpretentious. They could be brothers.

Then again it's just possible that in voting for her to join their select band, the Whips may have made the most terrible mistake. They may simply not have realised that Jacqui Lait is female. As one retiring MP and former Whip remarked as he passed her in the corridor: "I always swore that the day a woman was allowed into the Whips' office I would burn my tie in the Palace Yard in protest. But I am so delighted that it's you. The first thing to hit you is

the complete lack of vanity, apparent as soon as the photographer begins his manoeuvres on the terrace. There is not even a hand through the short hair which, she announces in a sensible bark, she has had cut "by Robert at the Berkeley every three weeks for the past 22 years".

The mouth has no history of lipstick, the eyes no memory of mascara. The unflattering striped dress reminds one of Marlon's uniform in Carry On Doctor. All that's missing is the little white cap.

Of course, none of this reflects on her ability as an MP, which her colleagues claim to be considerable. And certainly the Whips' Office is seen as the nursery for aspiring ministers — one third of the present Cabinet have done time with Westminster's Secret Service. But it's unusual to meet a female member from any party these days who is not shouldering a determined red jacket or, at the very least, shaking a shiny Follettesque bob. It is also unusual to find a married female MP so delightfully free from the constraints of juggling childcare with appalling Commons hours.

"I've been married 22 years, have no children and I have very little maternal instinct." She laughs uproariously as she announces these facts. "We decided we had other things to do."

I wonder if she and her husband Peter ("he has several company directorships") have ever regretted this decision? "Career has always been the most important thing. I've wanted to be an MP right from the age of eight when my Godfather registered this decision."

"Career has always been the most important thing. I've wanted to be an MP right from the age of eight when my Godfather registered this decision."

what can only be described as a mannish manner. "Oh God," she cries so quickly that I jump. "It's so deeply satisfying being here! It's still a privilege, it still grabs you in the gut and you think 'Oh God it's wonderful!' There's just something about it that's very, very satisfying."

It seems pointless to ask if she's anxious about being the first woman whip? "Oh I'm used to bossing boys around," she laughs, explaining that her mother ran the family business in Scotland after her father died when Jacqui was 12. Educated at Paisley Grammar then Strathclyde University, where she excelled in

'There are different ways of being tough. Some respond to hard man soft man, some to persuasion, others like to be flattered. I've got broad shoulders and a thick skin'

jecting "drunken Scots from the bar", Lait has "always worked with men. And I've never found it a problem."

"It's very interesting, when we came in 1992, there were six Conservative women and 23 Labour women. It seemed to me clear that the Conservative women settled in very easily whereas you would see the Labour women caucusing together, using the women as their base."

In which case why are Conservative selection panels so resistant to female candidates? "It's a generational thing. A lot of people involved in the selection process aren't used to seeing women in authority. Personally, I've come across very little overt sexual discrimination."

was eventually chosen for her safe sane Hastings and Fox. "Like a lot of women I used to say 'Bloody selection panels!' But soberer and wiser people used to say 'It's chemistry. If it doesn't work it doesn't work, if they don't like you or you don't like them it won't work.' Since I got selected, well, I now subscribe to the chemistry theory. I really do."

But the chemistry of the Whips' office is altogether more explosive. As Michael Cockerell's splendid BBC2 documentary on the Whips disclosed last year, the Chief Whip keeps a Black Book listing each MP's misdemeanours and the late David Lightbown was known to make MPs weep.

Has she seen the black book yet? She laughs loudly and refuses to comment. Will she enjoy the bullying, cajoling and sniping that makes up the job description?

"There are different ways of being tough. Some respond to hard man soft man, some to persuasion, others like to be flattered. I've got broad shoulders and a thick skin."

But is she persuasive? "I've never been in sales."

She did, however, once work for the Government Information Service and she ran her own lobbying consultancy for eight years before entering Parliament.

In Cockerell's documentary, Tim Fortescue, a whip from 1970-73, recalls keeping an ear open for MPs' problems "be it debt or a scandal involving women settled in very easily whereas you would see the Labour women caucusing together, using the women as their base."

Why do male MPs appear to have relatively more affairs than female MPs? "Women are too busy doing the job. Most of us women MPs get a reputation for being hardworking."

Dealing with 45 letters a day is time-consuming.

Are female MPs more conscientious than men? "Yes, I think women do tend to work harder."

In that case shouldn't the Tory Party encourage more women MPs? "It's up to the party, you can't insist on it. I'm completely against quotas and women on shortlists. If you're imposed, you're never going to be happy."

Discretion is the calcium in Whips' bones and, unable to talk about policy, Lait is already uncontrollably discreet. Who, I ask, are her friends among MPs? "Oh it's invidious to pick any out."

Who does she socialise with? "Oh this is a social place you know but we don't go to the cinema and theatre together."

Well what about outside the House, who are her non-political friends? "Oh we've rather neglected them since I was elected."

A little later she mentions one of her interests is cooking. What sort of cooking? "Oh just you know, cooking."

Did she take a pay cut to become an MP? "Yes. How much? "£11, just say a significant drop."

can be proved that Nasser had broken some specific

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Richard Nelson's The General, at Stratford, is a hit and miss affair

Mess upon mess

ROOTLESSNESS and Anglo-American cultural misunderstanding are the constant themes of the Chicagoan dramatist, Richard Nelson. And they combine with fair success in The General from America at The Swan, Stratford-on-Avon.

Nelson deals with Benedict Arnold who, during the War of Independence, became the most famous traitor in American history. On one level, his play is a history lesson. We see Arnold, who has been an heroic soldier, facing accusations in 1780 from the Pennsylvania politicians that he has been guilty of wartime profiteering. George Washington, his long-time best friend, finds him partially guilty and ignominiously packs him off to command the fort at West Point. Arnold hands the British plans of attack and it is only the incompetence that prevents them capturing the fort and Washington himself, thereby winning the war.

Nelson tells a good story well. But the intriguing question is why Arnold did it, and here Nelson implies that Arnold was a corrupt, greedy grubber, that like Washington he had a genuine sense of grievance against meddling politicians and that he was torn between a love of American landscape and a fondness for British "culture". May be there never is a simple motive for treason, but in singling so many answers Nelson leaves us puzzled as to the source of Arnold's treachery.

Where the play scores is in its ironic portrayal of national incomprehension. The Brits see America as a barbarous god-forsaken colony, while the Americans covetly admire British civilisation.

The best scenes expose the hollowness of British claims to superiority. A series of poetic tableaux in the British oficers' club in New York are largely an excuse for a glorified striptease. And Sir Henry Clinton, the Commander-in-Chief, fatally entrusts negotiations with Arnold to a peacocking Major with whom he is infatuated. It may be an exaggeration to suggest Britain lost the American colonies because of a homosexual passion but the point about the fallibility of the gentleman-code comes sharply across.

Howard Davies's full-bloodedly theatrical production captures the contrast between American confusion and British complacency. James Latterson also suggests that Arnold's bluster conceals a rootless uncertainty and there is sure-footed support from Rachel Joyce as his devoted sister, Corin Redgrave as a morally testing Washington and John Wood as the seemingly incompetent Clinton. It is not vintage Nelson, but it is an entertaining play that exposes the origins of a special relationship founded on misunderstanding.

In rep at The Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon (01789-295623).

Michael Billington



'Small-minded'; 'Philistines'. The burghers are under attack for refusing Benjamin Britten a statue. JOHN VIDAL comes to their aid

The rise and fall of the statue

ON RICH Oman has found a crutching way to commemorate its culture in public places. Reasoning that public art is for everyone and everyone travels by car, the Arab sheikhdom has turned its roundabouts and road junctions into huge art installations celebrating domestic Omani life. The amazed visitor whizzes round 150 foot high spots and incense burners the size of office blocks.

It's art to give directions by ("first left at the traffic, right at the sauceman, straight past the dagger..."), to be seen momentarily through a car window and to be appreciated best at night when more than 150 million fairy lights can line the roads. Grand in scale, confident in literal form, Oman's statutory celebrates Omani life past and present. It seems popular, at least with children.

Alas poor Aldeburgh. The modest fishing town that is also a classical music shrine for a few weeks each year has outraged aesthetes by turning down a small statue of Benjamin Britten. Believing the town full of "small minded abolitionists" and "philistines" these metropolitan moralisers believe Aldeburghians should gaze happily on Britten's image and reflect on his works. The message — admire, Aldeburgh, know what's good for you — proved too much. Thanks, we do like Mr B, but

we've just shelled out for a playground and we'd prefer a bird bath, seems a perfectly understandable reaction.

But the powerful classical music lobby that promoted the Britten statue was acting as central and local authorities have done for decades. In the name of commemorating place and person, these commissioners of icons and relics have dumped without any consultation the most terrible bric à brac on the people who they have governed.

Statuary has rightly got itself a bad name in Britain. Those we raise on plinths tend to be the psychologically injured — men of war, politicians, Jungistic statesmen and those who have made others' lives a misery.

A walk around many cities is a desultory experience. If we can be known by the images we erect of ourselves, it seems we are obsessed by male civility, combative death. A walk around Whitehall and Central London is intimidating; look, here's a man who killed thousands of Indians, another who suppressed the East, who bombed Germans, who razed South America, who slaughtered Europeans.

Authoritative men stare down on us in apparent disapproval of our times. And whereas the men whom we celebrate have real names, the female form is good only to represent the abstract and symbolic. Peace, Liberty, Justice,

Valour, Grace, Hope. There's the Roadside on the embankment, or Lady Godiva in Coventry, but when it comes down to it, the latter is a male fantasy while the former is just another celebration of the warrior race.

Britten stood a good chance of being immortalised. He was male and dead. Today, the chances of a statue commemorating someone alive is small. Wolverhampton this week unveiled a pin-high image of Nelson Mandela (there is a full size statue on the South bank, too); there are Beatles in Liverpool but few others. In a strange reversal of reality, the quick are considered too ephemeral for our age. Instead we a death cult, with ancestor worship firmly linked to heritage rather than to art.

It's a far cry from self-confident Georgian or Victorian times when Britain celebrated life in its statues. Then every two-bit civic mayor had himself cast in full regalia, and every vicerey, consul and empire builder posed as a protector, educator or bureaucrat. A grateful nation (it was always said) regularly raised money to erect images of heroes or nobility but lack from wars or colonial adventures.

The decline of public representational art could be because we have so little pride in how we are living or our position in the world. Compared with Victorian or Edwardian times these are dog days for British figurative status makers. What are we meant to be celebrating? asks Sophie Dickens, a sculptor. Religion, she says, is out, politics has been debased, and we have a weak royal family and nobility. The cult of the person is all but dead.

Fashions change. We no longer celebrate war leaders with such vigour, but why not erect statues to today's heroes: sportsmen, actors, rock stars — are paid fortunes, their faces are instantly recognised. They may be honoured by the state, but they are less likely to be carved in stone than cast in wax at Madame Tussaud's. And then when they are no longer on the box, they are melted down. It is as if we say "You shall have everything, except the blessing of the future".

We may not take the long view any more, but there are practical reasons, too, for not celebrating the living. Statues are almost always contentious. "If they put up a statue of Thatcher, it would be toppled or defaced in 10 minutes," said one sculptor yesterday. How did he know? "Because I would do it myself". Artists and creative people



Statues of the nation... John Lennon in Liverpool (above); Bud Neill's cartoon character Lobey Dosser (top left) — the only statue to have been erected by public subscription since Victorian times; Tony Hancock (top right). These are three of the few monuments erected to popular cultural figures rather than warmongers, profiteers and unsavoury politicians

are not denied statuemongers, though. There are legions of Shakespeares and Burns, there's Conan Doyle, Rupert Brooke, Walter Scott, Kathleen Ferrier, Dylan Thomas, Charlie Chaplin, Tony Hancock is in Birmingham (no one wanted him at first).

Fictional heroes and animals are occasionally raised but not with such gusto as on the Continent, where animals, mythological creatures and fictional characters abound. One exception is Bud Neill's cartoon character Lobey Dosser, said to be the only

statue to have been erected by public subscription since Victorian times. It's in Glasgow. Elsewhere there are Peter Pan and Just William. These tributes to fictional characters — the equivalent to putting up a huge Peter Grimes in Aldeburgh — could be seen as a far more resonant way of recalling an artist than his own statue would be. But there is another way the good people of Aldeburgh could ensure that Britten's name lived in the children's mouths. They could always call their playground Great Britten.

EastEnders go to war

Television

Stuart Jeffries

NOW ALL of Walford is on fire, and silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies. Know what I mean? After the flared horror of Nigel's seventies revival disco earlier in the week, EastEnders (BBC1) awakes to find that developers were planning to build luxury flats over the playground. Before you could say "I'll have a pound of plums, Marie," there was a riot outside the Vic in protest.

It was a popular revolt more comprehensible and sympathetic than Henry V's expansionist French campaign, recalled by Professor Richard Holmes in the first episode of War Walks (BBC2). Cry "God for Cindy, decent leisure facilities, and Albert Square!" Fansiders went once more onto the breach, filling up the schedules with an extra fourth episode. Despite some unappealing dreary sub-plots during the week it was worth the wait for the opportunistic play-ground sixtime to come to a rolling boil.

Opportunistic because it was cunningly timed to coincide with the school holidays. What could make viewing parents empathise more deeply with their Albert Square counterparts than seeing the only safe place in the area for children to play fenced off for redevelopment as the seven-week holiday from hell begins?

Walford's women stood on one side of the fence, bawling at some developer on the other. He had a mobile phone; he was history. Glimpsed through the fence, the women looked just as menacing as the Cuban volleyball team seen through the net by the opposing team, but not, you know, quite as leggy.

"This wouldn't happen in Hampstead," yelled one protester, which is true, but only

because the Heath and Old Hampstead Society would have taken action to ensure that the developers could not fence off the playground while the land still belonged to the council. And because the boys and girls of Hampstead don't need playgrounds. They have croquet lawns the size of Albert Square, and gardens the size of Walford. They do.

The riot was delightfully choreographed. Pauline handed Cindy an iron bar to smash up the developer's car. Better, there was a grim comedy of wrongful arrests, as the police took Nigel downtown for standing feet planted with mouth in lip-sucking gaps.

The only thing missing was the two-figure salute, that defiant gesture introduced into English vernacular by the long-bowmen at Agincourt. Historians claim that this was to scare French knights, but really it was to protest against their leader's campaign strategy. Henry V chose to march from Harfleur to Calais, through water meadows and wide rivers, perversely skirting the best wine-growing regions. He was a warrior, but he was no Jancis Robinson.

"Many saw this as a dangerous path rather than a crusade," said Professor Holmes. French soldiers and interestingly lurked along their path, but it wasn't all Camembert and Calvados. With the culinary inaptitude typical of Englishmen abroad, many succumbed to dysentery after eating seafood from Harfleur's marshes which doubled as the town's sewers.

War Walks proved something of a misnomer, since the Professor drove an N-reg Ford along the route marched by the rack and Rouen of Henry's sick and starving army. Holmes's exposition of the battle, too, was disappointing. He fell back on footage from Kenneth Branagh's film of Henry V, but as reliable a guide to the battle as French armour was at stopping English arrows.

Reviews

POP

Bryan Adams Huddersfield

IF YOU'VE ever wondered why anyone goes to Bryan Adams's concerts, Huddersfield blonde Stella explained all: "You know all the songs," she cooed. "Who wants to see something where it's all new?" Her pal, Paul (grey T-shirt, black jeans, popping Paracetamol) had his own theory. "It's a huge event in a small town." Helpfully, Bryan Adams (firebucket voice, T-shirt, black jeans) didn't disappoint either, churning out a succession of gargantuan hits for his McAlpine Stadium fans: Big Rock with big riffs, big choruses, drumbeats like nuclear explosions and more crowd participation than Nuremberg. Everywhere you looked there were people reliving their youth. "I wanna be as 'til I die," sang a cheerily Adams, onstage, while off it 28,000 voices yelled along with

Everywhere We Go (The Kids Wanna Rock), nobody seeming to notice that these "kids" were over 30.

But it was difficult not to be rocked, although straight forwardness of it all. Adams plays a regular bloke's music, high on nostalgia, hope, angst, flattery and between-song innuendo (Summer Of '69 will forever have new meaning). And if he does border on sexism now and again ("Are you old enough?", he asked a girl he invited onstage, "To drink, I mean. Whoops!"), don't all regular blokes? Beneath it all, though, he has a heart of gold. We know this because Bryan came on all emotional on us. He told us Everybody Needs Somebody, it's Out Like A Knife, how he'd Never Really Loved A Woman but that everything he does, he does it for us, and we resolved to throw even more of our money at him. In the hope that Bryan's heart may one day go platinum.

Dave Simpson

JAZZ

Mike Westbrook Rhythmic, London

JOHN Lennon would undoubtedly have taken to Mike Westbrook's explosive account of rock with big riffs, big choruses, drumbeats like nuclear explosions and more crowd participation than Nuremberg. Everywhere you looked there were people reliving their youth. "I wanna be as 'til I die," sang a cheerily Adams, onstage, while off it 28,000 voices yelled along with

like piano. Octopus's Garden followed a drifting, reflective piano interlude (Kate Westbrook untiringly the song in a breathy, Monroe-like flutter), and they rounded up the first half (with I Want You) first as a splintering blues guitar hash from Brian Godding capped by a single haunting clarinet note from Peter Whyman. Westbrook drily informed the audience that it could hear the rest of the clarinet solo after the break, but he hardly prepared it for Whyman's astonishing improvisation. This underrated clarinetist and saxophonist sometimes sounds like a classical player, but he mingles it with layers of repeated hooting sounds, clipped squeals, circular-breathing marathons, dissonances, overtones and counter-melodies drawn from the remarkable laboratory of Evan Parker. This long episode built up a tension that made the final arrival of Here Comes The Sun nothing short of an ecstatic release.

John Fordham

ADAM SWEETING on testing times for televised opera

The price is wrong

DESPITE its reputation as the next stop on the Ascot-Kew-Wimbledon social circuit, Glyndebourne deserves credit for its policy of staging challenging operas from way beyond the well-trampled middle of the road. This season it has presented both Handel's Theodora (in a controversial production by Peter Sellars) and Alban Berg's intrinsically controversial Lulu.

The Sun newspaper likes to complain that opera is an elitist pastime enjoyed only by "fabulous snobs", but thanks to Channel 4's continuing relationship with Glyndebourne, TV viewers can assess both pieces for themselves. Theodora was broadcast on June 16, while Berg's dark saga of sex, degradation and death will be shown tonight.

The original three-year collaboration between Channel 4 and Glyndebourne began with a broadcast of The Marriage of Figaro in 1994, and in May a new agreement was signed which will run until 1999. For anybody concerned about TV arts coverage, this is excellent news. Even so, it's difficult not to see it as a rare exception to a generally pessimistic trend. Opera is an expensive and untidely form. Try putting it on

"Our budgets are remaining static while the costs are going up," says Avril McCrory, BBC's head of music programming. "It's very difficult to explain to artists that nobody is making money on this." The costs of mounting a principal production of, for instance, a substantial Verdi opera can reach £300,000. That was roughly the figure required to mount BBC's celebrated transmission of Verdi's La Traviata in December 1994, when network controller Michael Jackson cleared his schedules to accommodate Covent Garden's hit production, with Sir Georg Solti conducting Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu. The BBC scored a ratings triumph with one-and-a-half million viewers.

A number of factors combined to make the broadcast possible. The BBC were able to strike a co-production deal with Covent Garden Pioneer, a company formed by the classical video division of the Japanese Pioneer corporation to take options on ballet and opera productions at Covent Garden. Their input slashed the BBC's costs to around £300,000. Meanwhile, of the principal performers, only Solti was signed to a major record company, Decca, so some contractual problems did not arise.

The broadcast lit a rocket under Gheorghiu's career, and with Decca distributing the BBC/Pioneer Traviata on video, the naive observer might have expected the BBC to have reaped some profits. "This is a very sore subject," McCrory winces. "The BBC don't retain any rights at all. We put a huge amount of money into these productions and we get one UK transmission. This is not necessarily because our co-producers are nasty people, it's primarily because of union agreements. We've flagged to the opera house that in the current climate we do not feel this situation can continue, but any solution will be long term."

Dennis Marks ran the BBC music department for seven years, and is now feeling the broadcasting pinch as General Manager at English National Opera. Without national TV coverage, he says, ENO's catchment area is defined by the M25. "There is absolutely no doubt that the one way to make sure you have vigorous audiences for arts on TV is to have public service commitments, because the more you give people the more they want. "There's only one thing that makes public service broadcasting work, and that's an act of political will."

Alban Berg's Lulu will broadcast on Channel 4 tonight at 6.25pm.

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John W. L. S. D.

Master blaster in the shooting gallery

The critic **DAVID SYLVESTER** has taken on the biggest names in modern art for nigh-on 50 years. In these extracts from a new book of key essays he writes of his battles with Berger and attempts to pin down Picasso

Illustration by **GEORFF GRANDFIELD**



AT THE turn of 1949-50 I perceived that there was a really important figurative painter working in England. I had been admiring and writing about Francis Bacon's work for three or four years but always perceiving it as a form of Expressionism. Suddenly, looking at a recent image of an ectoplasmic head with an open mouth and an ear that seemed attached by a cord to the ceiling, I recognised that it was a painting, not a cry of pain.

The noisiest shot I fired in the campaign against the Berger line was an article satirically entitled "The Kitchen Sink", published in Encounter for December 1954. This postulated a "Kitchen Sink School", which included French painters such as Rebayrolle and Minaux as well as English painters such as Bratby and Jack Smith, and concluded: "It is as well to remember that the graveyard of artistic reputations is littered with the ruins of expressionistic painters whose youthful outpourings once took the world by storm." But the term "Kitchen Sink School" was hijacked by cultural journalists to serve as a designation for a supposed movement that encompassed novelists and dramatists.

It was not until many years later that I realised that Auerbach's friend Leon Kossoff, who was working along similar lines, was also an artist of consequence. Both had studied devotedly under David Bomberg, an outstanding painter from 1913 on, but a difficult man whom the art world had idly allowed to slide into obscurity.

neither seemed radical enough in style to be relevant to the future of painting. However, in the Listener for 12 January 1967 I was able to say that Frank Auerbach's exhibition at the Beaux-Arts Gallery "seems to me the most exciting and impressive first one-man show by an English painter since Francis Bacon's in 1949... These paintings reveal the qualities that make for greatness in a painter — fearlessness; a profound originality; a total absorption in what obsesses him; and, above all, a certain authority and gravity in his forms and colours."

ing living painter in England was Auerbach. But Bacon's retrospective at the Tate in 1982 concluded with work which showed me that he was just emerging from what I now saw as a necessary period of transition, and I said this in a long review of the show (reprinted in the book). A few months later we recorded the interview that was to lead to our making a book of them. Nevertheless, in 1984 and again in 1987 I was still saying that Bomberg was the finest English painter of the century. It wasn't a stupid judgement, for he was surely the finest draughtsman, though probably a lesser painter than Spencer and Sickert. I must have been influenced by my sense of guilt about having failed to accept this century's invitation, at a time when he was desperate for attention, to visit his studio. Whatever the excuses, it was sloppy to take so long to accept anew that Bacon was made of sterner stuff and was on a bigger scale.

eral parts that are clay, probably including his feet, but not his balls. I started being hostile to Picasso in print in 1948, when I wrote that he was essentially a great sculptor and that as a painter he was not the equal of Klee or in some ways of Juan Gris. I left these judgements behind fairly soon, but in January 1983, reviewing a small Matisse exhibition at the Tate, I wrote: "These drawings are precisely and penetratingly realistic... Each of them vibrates with the impact of a particular experience. Never do they lapse into generalisations and arty idealisations such as find their way into Picasso's drawings." And I remember that while writing this review I made a resolve that my career as a critic was to be dedicated above all else to the promotion of a Giacometti-Bacon axis — to establishing that Matisse was a greater artist than Picasso.

Matise's supremacy was challenged two years later by a small but intoxicating exhibition of Bonnard at the Maison de la Pensée Française in Paris. This happened to be running concurrently with a great Picasso retrospective, which included Guernica, at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs. "Bonbons may be odious, but the presence of Bonnard does not so much allow as force us to see Picasso in perspective. And in this perspective Picasso appears a superb draughtsman, a very limited colourist, and a painter whose handling of the medium may often be brilliant or delicate but has not got mystery. Yet there remains a radiant, a miraculous, a god-like, capacity to invent forms which ravish our senses, to create a new canon of ideal beauty. His most violent distortions, it seems to me, so far from having a grotesque or alarming effect — and this applies even to Guernica — strike me as highly desirable improvements on nature."

flower, the light bulb, the fallen warrior with a broken sword, the woman mourning a dead child, the woman falling from a burning house, the woman rushing across the scene holding a lamp — worked out within a few weeks of the air raid with a conviction that gives it the air of inevitability of a classic religious iconography." Coming to see what was there in Picasso happened through realising that it may be more generous to find than to seek. I had been freed to accept this by a certain amount of disappointment in the major Giacometti retrospective at Saint-Paul de Venise in 1978. The sculptures up to 1956 had retained all their magic, but in the subsequent works it seemed that there was not the previous perfect reconciliation between the demands of trapping appearance and those of achieving structural clarity; the pent-up violence and the power to dominate space were greatly diminished. And the paintings from the mid-1960s on seemed to have suffered a loss of mystery and luminosity. The drawings, on the other hand, seemed to have got more and more marvellous.

In the catalogue of a show called Looking Forward which he curated in 1962, he wrote: "I am convinced... that the future development of painting will be towards realism." This, he explained, did not mean "looking backwards", reviving "an academic naturalism, based on curiosity", but a realism "based on the painter's ability to identify himself with his subject".

It was not surprising that Berger failed to recognise the value of Bacon: he was too much of a boy scout not to see him as a monster of depravity

ten years later, writing not of mere hopes but of achievement, he said: "Since the last war two painters have furthered the main European tradition. When the history of art of our period is written, these two are bound to feature as key figures. Others will be seen as important experimentalists, witnesses of our time, significant spellbinders, but these two will join the mainstream. I am convinced of it. They are Nicolas de Staël and Friso ten Holt."

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effort to look each eye in the eye. One recalls those hallucinations that make these associations as they seem or is it their design, the blank dislocated gaze of those round wide-apart goggles? The sockets of the *Death's Head* glare with a look of accusation. The face has something too of the aspect of those paralysed faces in medical text-books. It is not a dead face, but a face struggling with death."

flower, the light bulb, the fallen warrior with a broken sword, the woman mourning a dead child, the woman falling from a burning house, the woman rushing across the scene holding a lamp — worked out within a few weeks of the air raid with a conviction that gives it the air of inevitability of a classic religious iconography."

Coming to see what was there in Picasso happened through realising that it may be more generous to find than to seek. I had been freed to accept this by a certain amount of disappointment in the major Giacometti retrospective at Saint-Paul de Venise in 1978. The sculptures up to 1956 had retained all their magic, but in the subsequent works it seemed that there was not the previous perfect reconciliation between the demands of trapping appearance and those of achieving structural clarity; the pent-up violence and the power to dominate space were greatly diminished. And the paintings from the mid-1960s on seemed to have suffered a loss of mystery and luminosity. The drawings, on the other hand, seemed to have got more and more marvellous.

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Happily, Berger decided to continue his career as a fiction writer through the medium of the novel. But at the time he was writing criticism he was a serious distraction, because his rhetorical skills and his performing skills on TV won considerable support, financial as well as moral, for himself. His dominance was all the more dispiriting in that there were seven or eight excellent London critics who were interpreting matters in a less simplified and schematised way.

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David Sylvester was awarded the Golden Lion for art criticism at the Venice Biennale in 1993, the first writer to receive the award. He is regarded by many as the finest critic of modern art writing in English. He has curated many exhibitions, including most recently De Kooning at the Tate and, currently, Francis Bacon at The Pompidou Centre in Paris

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Anne Hummert

Empress of the radio soaps

HERE should maybe be a minute's pause at the end of *Brookside*, *Coronation Street*, *EastEnders* and certainly *The Archers*, in memory of Anne Hummert, who has died, a rich lady, witty to the end, in her bed in her Fifth Avenue apartment at the age of 91. She pretty well invented soap-operas. "Soaps are better than Valium," she said when old, of the TV kind. "It's the same principle — hang on till tomorrow, to be continued. But today there's more sex."

She'd been a girl reporter from Baltimore in the first fashion for ace newspaper-women in the early 1930s; she corresponded from Paris, where she met, married, had a son by, and divorced a fellow back within a year, and returned to Chicago. She was all of 22 and couldn't find another newsroom job. Baby needed feeding, so she settled for being an editorial assistant to E. Frank Hummert, 20 years her senior, partner and copywriter for the leading Chicago ad agency. She sounds to have been super-efficient and yet — since she was the only woman in the office — she wanted the pay of a man. She got it. The agency made her vice-president in her mid-twenties.

Reader, she didn't marry him, at least not until 1934. But they were before then a close team. Radio had a boom. The movies had drawn on precedents — two centuries of popular theatre across two continents, combined with the moguls' family expertise in *fantasies of luxury* (in furs, shoes and automobiles). The needed capital. But nothing like radio had existed before. It could be created and transmitted cheaply. It was an intimate, domestic medium — the receiver was right there in the family house, all day. Early

United States station-programming was scheduled for the evenings, as if radio were theatre — an event — and listeners should sit down and give it all their attention. But Anne and Frank, with their ad agency expertise, perceived it could be used differently. They seemed real. Radio drama could be closer to gossip or to the family stories women tell each other in traditional cultures, which don't always have beginnings, middles and closed and conclusive ends — the narrative flow is all. And so it would reach an untouched yet commercially vital group: housewives — who did almost all the brand-

Her heart was in radio as well as her bank account. She was an audio Scheherazade

name buying in the US. Technically, a 1930 programme *Painted Lives* by Irma Phillips, was the pioneer radio soap opera, but *Just Plain Bill*, the invention of Anne and Frank, which began at night in 1932 and was moved to daytime the next year because the template for soaps (so-called because the main sponsor-advertiser were soap/detergent companies). Housewives "never missed" — an early use of the phrase — an episode about the small town barber who married above himself. *Bill* began an industry — the couple were the equivalent in output to much more than the entire current production staff of Fox TV. At their zenith, Hummert Productions controlled 18 different 15-min-

ute serials — that's around 90 episodes a week, each ending with a cliff-hanger, the cliff being distinctly sheerer in the Friday episodes. They were what TV now calls "show runners": they devised the ideas, the main story lines, did the casting, when they became the Hummert assembly line, hired editors filled in the rest. Anne and Frank had moved to New York in the mid-1930s when newly-married. Audiences sent the shows five million letters a year — babies born in dramas were swamped with presents; their productions took half the ad revenues of daytime radio; they each made \$100,000 annually. Anne Hummert's heart was in radio, as well as her bank account. She was an audio Scheherazade who kept track of every character and plot twist in *Stella Dallas*, *Helen Trent* (in her time, the most famous non-existent person in the US), *Ma Perkins*, *Lorenzo Jones*, *Benjamin Wigg*, *John's Other Wife*, and the *Warfare*. With Anne around, a script-writer had to master a show's back-story.

"Can an orphaned girl from a small town in Colorado find happiness as the wife of a wealthy titled Englishman?" asked the teaser for *Our Gal Sunday*. It was the era Woody Allen recalls in an amber glow in his film *Radioland*, when radio seemed to unify families and give the nation a shared timetable. Soaps became the models for popular emotions. And the Hummerts were supreme in the medium. As Garrison Keillor wrote in *A Radio Romance*: "When you were in radio, you owned the world. Men moved aside for shared time-tables. And as you slipped through, you heard people whisper your name." It couldn't last, of course. As Keillor also wrote, "the days of radio were numbered..."



Anne Hummert... pioneer of the radio waves, champion of the cliff-hanger

Radio was dream and now it's a jukebox. He was writing about its displacement by the new broadcasting, television, which combined radio's warm omnipresence with the cooler power of the cinema. When television arrived, the Hummerts checked their big bank balances and began to travel the world in slow

comfort. They still loved each other. He died in 1966; she "was knocked for a loop" by that. She moved to a smaller apartment, still looking down on Central Park, and went on travelling, walking her daily three miles until a few months ago. She was amazed that the University of Wyoming really wanted three plane-loads of

her scripts and memorabilia. She leaves two grand-daughters, Pamela Pignoni and Anne Jeskey, and two great-grandchildren. Veronica Horwell

Anne Schumacher Hummert, radio pioneer, born January 19, 1905; died July 5, 1996

Tim Woodman

Deadly in the darkness

TIM WOODMAN, who has died aged 82, was a brilliant Royal Air Force nightfighter and intruder pilot who shot down at least nine aircraft over Germany and occupied Europe. It was in February 1944 that he shot down his first aircraft — a Messerschmitt 110 — surviving a gashed wing on his de Havilland Mosquito night-fighter. His score mounted, with one victory — over a Junkers Ju86 — achieved with an unserviceable gun. Then, in August 1944, he shot down a Mosquito and sprayed its cockpit with oil.

One of Woodman's favourite daylight sorties was attempting to find and attack Karinhall, the country home of the Luftwaffe leader, Hermann Goering. He fantasised about Goering and his cohorts "scampering for shelter as I alarmed cannon shells into the building. That would have given me greater satisfaction than shooting down half-a-dozen Hunks," he said. It was never achieved.

Tim Woodman was born at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, shortly after the outbreak of the first world war; he became an engineering apprentice in Britain on Harlock Park, then the Air Ministry's mechanical and electrical design staff and in 1940 he was accepted for pilot training. He won his wings in Canada, and was commissioned in February 1941. Operational training in Britain on Harlock Park came first, followed by a posting to 410 Canadian night-fighter squadron flying the unusual, gun-turreted Boulton Paul Defiant single-engine fighter and then the twin-engine Bristol Beaufighter.

After a secondment in June 1942 as a production test pilot, he moved to 96 Squadron, flying Beaufighter cross-Channel sorties. This included strafing the Paris-Rouen night train which, according to the Resis-



Woodman... nightfighter

tance, was packed with German officers. In November 1943 he joined 169 Squadron, flying Mosquitoes on bomber-support and claimed four victories in May 1944. In 1945 he was awarded a DFC and a DSO. Peace-time appointments followed at the radar warfare establishment at Foulsham, the Air Ministry and HQ Fighter Command before attending the Empire Test Pilots School at Cranfield; he was deputy superintendent of flying at Boscombe Down from 1950 to 1952. A Soviet delegation was transferred by a silhouette of a flying saucer among the aircraft types depicted on his office wall.

Leaving the RAF in 1952, with the rank of Wing Commander, Woodman then worked for Shell's international aviation organisation. He retired in 1960 to Wiltshire when still only 46, celebrating his 50th birthday in 1964, by cycling more than 4,000 miles across Canada.

Norman Barfield
"Tim" (Ronald George) Woodman, pilot, born June 3, 1914; died June 26, 1996

Fred Armstrong

An eye for the perfect print

FRED ARMSTRONG, who has died aged 82, was northern picture editor of the Guardian from the mid-1960s until 1976. A Geordie, Fred started with the *Evening Chronicle* in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His razor-sharp reflexes were developed above his eyes, especially the Daily and Sunday Graphic picture papers. Never a paparazzo, Fred's only use for the long-tom lens

was to lug the few hundred-weight of equipment to the top of Old Trafford's pavilion to photograph cricket and focus on his beloved adopted county — Lancashire. Equally at home with soccer, he was sitting on his camera-bag covering a Manchester City game at Maine Road when one of his heroes, goalkeeper Bert Trautmann left his post, and came over for a chat. It is unclear if the match was in progress — but Fred kept the photograph.

He was one of the first to travel abroad to photograph European football, and was proud owner of a commemorative wrist-watch from Real Madrid's manager.

He would occasionally permit the occasional prod at pompous politicians. The landscape had to be treated sensitively to retain the atmosphere, which demanded almost fine-art printing. Above all he treated the picture when he saw one.

We would have gone to the ends of the earth for him — and usually did. Fred is survived by his wife Sheila and daughters Jacqui and Maureen.

Dennis Thorpe
Frederick Angus Armstrong, journalist, born April 5, 1914; died July 14, 1996



Matchless... Fred Armstrong with Bert Trautmann beside the pitch at Maine Road, Manchester

Weekend birthdays

TONY BLAIR shouldn't kid himself that by demoting Clare Short, he'll dump an unquiet shadow; there's a long, living tradition of women of the left with independent minds. If their *grande dame* is Barbara Castle, then Shirley Williams, 66 today, is the sister who fanned out of the party when the colour of her frock clashed with Labour's decor.

Regrets, she now admits to a few — not working harder at her first marriage (to philosopher Bernard) not being foisted early in her career — but leaving Labour to co-found



the Social Democratic Party 15 years ago isn't one of them. For as Baroness Williams of Crosby (as she's been since 1983) affirmed recently "I believe that if the SDP hadn't been created, New Labour would not have been born."

A principal architect of comprehensive schooling, she stands as a rebuke to Labour, mired in confusion and contradiction over education: clear, uncompromised policies were once possible. Labour's loss — look at its dull daughters. But her loss too: part-timing on the Lib Dem benches with no prospect of a cabinet in which to shine.

Today's other birthdays: Michael Ball, singer, 34; Allan Border, cricketer, 41; Christopher Dean, ice skater, 38; Sir Ron Darling, educationalist, 66; Jo Durie, tennis player, 36; David East, cricketer, 37; Bobbie Gentry, singer, 54; Gabrielle Glatter, actress, 36; Dame Mary Green, educationalist, 63; Elizabeth Harwick, writer, 80; Jack Higgins (Harry Patterson), novelist, 67; Lord Jenkins of Putney, former Labour minister, 68; Hansi Müller, skier, former footballer, 39; Sir Denis Ricketts, former private secretary to Clement Attlee, 88; Neil Smith, cricketer, 29; Joy Whitty, writer and pioneer of children's television, 66

Tomorrow's birthdays: Dr Baruch Blumberg, Nobel Prize winning scientist, former master, Balliol College, Oxford, 71; Ian Grant, chairman, Scottish Tourist Board, 53; Sir Peter Green, former chairman, Lloyd's, 73; Keith Hill, Labour MP, 53; Air Marshal Sir Richard Johns, chief of staff and deputy commander-in-chief, Strike Command and UK Air Forces, 57; Sir Russell Johnston, Liberal Democrat MP, 64; Paul Loughlin, Great Britain rugby league player, 30; Ian McCaskill, weatherman, 58; Dame Rosemary Murray, chemist, former president, New Hall, Cambridge, 83; Ricardo Muti, conductor, 55; Sir David Naish, president, National Farmers' Union, 58; Sir Garfield Sobers, former West Indies cricket captain, 60; Prunella Stack, founder and president, Women's League of Health and Beauty, 82; Murray Stuart, chairman, Scottish Power, 63; Phil Walker, editor, the Daily Star, 52.

James Tye

Safety first and foremost

JAMES TYE, founder and director general of the British Safety Council, who has died aged 74, united a flair for publicity with an equally intense interest in a worthy, and therefore often neglected, cause. He enhanced all aspects of safety, from road traffic to contraception, leaving it a less whimsical concept than he first found it in the 1950s.

Tye, whose bow tie and spectacles were as well known in his own field as Robin Day's were in his, went to Upper Hornsey School in London. He served in the RAF from 1940 to 1946 and then became an advertising agent and contractor. His concern with safety arose from a course he took in "defensive driving" to equip him for Britain's busier post-war roads. This led him to devise the concept of "defensive" driving, in which no chances were taken and no competitive offence given to other drivers.

In 1963 he became executive director of the British Safety Council, which he himself established in 1957. He lobbied governments, and his media skills led to many minor and at least two major successes; car seat belt legislation and the health and safety at work act, which came out of the statute book after he had given evidence to Lord Robens's 1971 committee. Consumers' Association officials, who did most of the work on car seat belts, fussed quietly while Tye planted himself firmly in the headlines.

Sometimes his flair for a promising campaign even backfired in the media. This failed to trouble him. When

Tye launched National Condemn Week in 1988, one journalist told him he suspected it was launched at that time because August was the "silly season" for news. Of course, agreed Tye immediately and unapologetically: it was so much easier to get copious column inches when Parliament and the courts were not sitting. But it was important, especially in the era of AIDS, that ways should be found to surmount people's embarrassment at buying contraceptives.

He was a benign opportunist who latched on to news to make his points, once criticising members of the royal family for not wearing seat belts. Reporters who rang him on almost anything remotely connected with safety were unlikely to come away without a good, often vivid, quote.

With the exception of photography and jazz all his recreations were competitive: sailing, golf, skiing and badminton. In his seventies, he



James Tye... a flair for driving home the point

also swam twice a week, winter and summer. His numerous offices included the vice-presidency of the Jamaican Safety Council and the fellowship of the Institute of Accident Prevention, Zambia. In 1950 he married Rosalind Hooker. They had one son and one daughter.

Dennis Barker
James Tye, safety expert, born December 21, 1921; died July 20, 1996

Death Notices

GOOD, Irene Helen Gertrude Tait, 82, mother died peacefully at home on Monday 22nd July 1996. Services at 10.30am on Wednesday 31st July at West Norwood Crematorium. Interment at West Norwood Crematorium. Wood Gate London. Condolence enquiries to the AJP Charitable Trust, 1 Sunningdale Road, 12 Prospect, Chislehurst, Kent DA7 1JN. Tel: 0181 753 2518

LEBERMAN, D. ANNE FRANCES, on July 24th in Norwich. Enquiries to Peter Taylor, Funeral Services, Norwich, NR2 2PE, Tel: 01603 76072

RUSH, Stanley Martin, of Orsett, and Appleby, peacefully in his 86th year on 25th July 1996. Burial at Great Ouseburn Crematorium, 26th July at 12.30pm. Enquiries to Glyn Jones 01753 251583

ROSEMARY, in loving memory of our daughter Grace, who died 20th July 1996

MEMORIAL SERVICES
WARWOOD, Ron, Headmaster of Lymington Primary School, died July 27th 1996. Services at 11.30am on Tuesday, 28th July at St James's Church, Prospect Road, Lymington. Enquiries to the church.

Face to Faith

Dark vision of papal bull

AS THE Pope travelled down the Unter den Linden in Berlin on his recent visit to Germany, many observers commented that he looked like a man of action. He barely moved. Now the Pope is on holiday in the Lorenzago mountains of Northern Italy. "I really need a rest," he told journalists. But despite his obvious frailty, all the signs are that he is determined to see in the millennium, as he doggedly sets about his self-appointed task of not only turning back the clock, but also ensuring that, even after he has gone, nothing will change. The Pope is a man of action. Not content with issuing declarations which may be contradicted tomorrow, he is doing his utmost to create a structure which even his successors will be powerless to change.

Catholicism's great strength as an institution has been its capacity for radical reform from within. This was most dramatically illustrated in living memory with the Second Vatican Council. It must not be forgotten that the turning point of that key event in contemporary Catholicism was open revolt by the world's bishops against the die-hard's of the Roman Curia. But this would have been impossible were it not for the implicit faith of Pope John XXIII, the Council's convener, in the continuing guidance of the Holy Spirit. Secure in this faith, he gave the Council Fathers a free hand. His view of the Church was open-ended and projected towards the future, this optimism extended to contemporary society in which he discerned encouraging "signs of the times".

In contrast, the world-view of the current Pontiff is dark

and dualistic. Western society is "the culture of death". Only the Church can provide the remedy by bringing about a "civilisation of love". He supports a raft of vast and fast-growing Catholic fundamentalist movements. Among the largest and most powerful are the strangely-named Focolare, Communism and Liberation and Neocatechumenate, the latter currently the subject of an enquiry in the Catholic diocese of Clifton in England.

Many Catholics are puzzled by the Pope's enthusiasm for these extraordinary organisations which have taken over the traditional religious orders. They certainly present a frightening vision of the Church. Each is sect-like in character, secretive and elitist, with a personality cult around the founders who claim direct illumination from God. Although the Vatican views these movements as

a group, they are in fact incompatible, as each preaches of its unique role not only as the sole salvation of the Catholic Church but also of the entire world.

These movements share the Pope's bleak view of the modern world and the futility of human endeavour. In contrast with the lack of enthusiasm shown by much of the Catholic laity, they campaign vigorously on behalf of the causes that have characterized John Paul's reign — against birth control, pre-marital sex, sterilisation, homosexuality, divorce and liberation theology — the latter is denounced as "the dragon" by Neocatechumenate leaders.

John Paul is impressed by the emphasis these movements place on "results" — the sole salvation of the Catholic Church and the religious life; high birth-rates among members (based on regularly published figures) and thousands of conversions. Proselytising takes precedence over justice and peace issues; social problems will be resolved, they believe, once the whole world joins the movement. The Neocatechumenate's zeal is such that they are already planning evange-

lising aliens in "distant galaxies." These movements are the embodiment of John Paul's "new evangelisation". They share his backward-looking vision of a Europe re-united by Catholicism. They are his bulwark against future reform, the best guarantee that the agenda of his reign will be perpetuated.

If this were not alarming

enough, reports have recently issued from Vatican sources that only the influence of the arch-conservative Cardinal Ratzinger has managed to restrain John Paul from declaring all his encyclicals infallible. Ratzinger, the theologian, is no doubt aware that such a move would push the notion of infallibility into the realms of the absurd, and

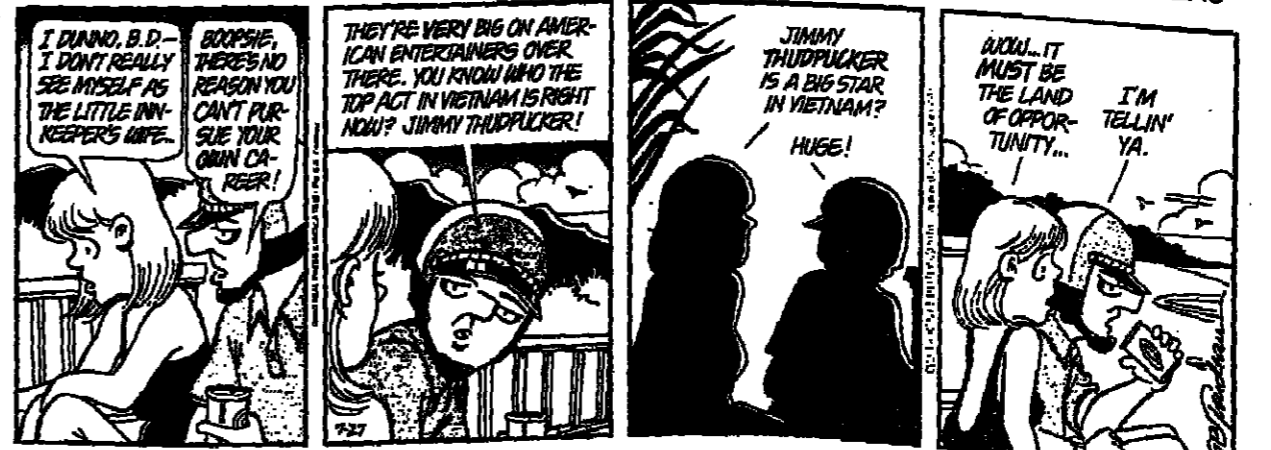
papal authority would be irretrievably damaged.

Such quixotic attempts to defend a rotting Church from the oncoming storm — as though the entire edifice depended on the efforts of one man — verge on Pelagianism (believing you can do things on your own without God's grace). But the final word belongs to the Holy Spirit. Could

it be that the crisis of faith at the summit of the Catholic Church will be instrumental in creating a new structure in which centralised authority will diminish, and the local churches finally be allowed to flourish as never before?

Gordon Urquhart is a film director and author of *The Pope's Armada*

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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MoneyGuardian

Life is being made easier for borrowers as the housing market recovers. But the lessons of the eighties should not be forgotten

A multiple choice question the lenders must get right

Shop around for loans now good times are back

Teresa Hunter

RISING confidence in the housing market is leading Britain's biggest mortgage lenders to relax lending restrictions by granting home loans of up to five times the applicant's salary.

Mortgages of four times salary are again available for the first time since the heady days of the 1980s property boom, raising fears that repossession rates could rise sharply should interest rates climb.

Mortgage repossession figures out on Wednesday will reveal that nearly 1,000 families in Britain lose the roof over their heads each week — this despite a slight improvement in arrears. A spokesman for the housing charity Shelter said: "Lenders must be responsible in their lending and ensure people can pay back the amounts borrowed. We would be very concerned at any general return to giving mortgages willy-nilly. That can only lead to more repossessions."

As house prices climb, borrowers come under pressure to take out ever larger loans which, next year, may cost 5 per cent more.

This in itself can fuel a house price spiral — as happened in the late 1980s. Lenders traditionally assess how much they will allow a borrower based on multiples of income, typically three times a main income, plus a second income, or two-and-a-half times joint incomes. But these multiples fluctuate according to market conditions. When the housing market was booming in the eighties, loans of four times income were easy to come by.

But lenders pulled in their horns when the market crashed in the 1990s, cutting right back to a maximum of two-and-a-half times the main income.

Many lenders have recently increased their official lend-

The mistakes they made

Lenders believed house prices could only go up. They encouraged the wrong people to buy. They failed to check income statements. Income multiples were inflated. Valuations were over optimistic. Soaring interest rates were not anticipated. New-style low-start mortgages were introduced. Self-certificated loans became available. Miras and mortgage benefit were cut. Loans were high in relation to property values.

ing criteria to 3.25 times salary plus a second salary but, behind the scenes, loans are available on anything up to five times salary, depending on the individual circumstances.

Almost all major lenders offer special deals which will "accommodate" borrowers looking for loans larger than they strictly qualify for according to income — but may insist that the borrower fixes the rate for five years.

A spokesman for mortgage brokers John Charcol said: "All major lenders will grant loans of four times the main salary plus one the second salary provided they are comfortable that the mortgage can be

its Halifax Mortgage Services wing to young professionals with a deposit of 20 per cent. Even through branches the Halifax will go up to 3.5 per cent times the first salary and once the second.

The Woolwich will lend up to four times salary in certain circumstances — although, like the Halifax, such loans are not agreed through the branch network but by the regional mortgage centre.

A Woolwich spokesman said: "We would look carefully at exactly how much went into a bank account each month and what went out by way of expenditure. We would go into a great deal of detail before we would agree to the loan."

As house prices climb borrowers come under pressure to take out larger loans, fuelling a price spiral

repaid. They look at each case on its merits."

Lenders argue that the trauma of the housing market crash taught them a great deal about successfully underwriting loans. They claim their systems are now so sophisticated that they are much better at assessing whether borrowers will meet mortgage repayments.

A spokesman for Birmingham Midshires admitted that the company would lend up to five times salary through its mortgage broker subsidiary — provided all its other checks and safeguards were satisfied. Similarly, the Halifax is offering four times salary through

which takes account of all income and expenditure.

A Nationwide spokesman said: "Under this system some people will qualify for larger loans than they would have done under the old three-times salary criterion. Two earners with no dependants will be treated more generously than a husband with three children and a dependent wife."

But borrowers should think carefully before opting for large loans. They can be badly caught out by sudden sharp rises in interest rates.

The Nationwide has abandoned income multiples altogether when assessing loans and now operates a complex credit scoring system.

Money Guardian was edited by Teresa Hunter this week



Ian Wylie

THE good old days returned for mortgage borrowers this week as Britain's second biggest building society, the Nationwide, cut its mortgage rates to a 31-year low of 6.49 per cent — the cheapest deal on the high street by quite a margin.

The promise of cash bonuses and share windfalls has tied many home-owners to bank "wannabees" such as the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock, all to be floated next year. But this week's Nationwide cut may persuade some borrowers that they can do better by switching lender.

Banks like the Abbey National, and banks-to-be such as the Halifax, are now some 0.5 per cent adrift. Borrowers who switch from one of the converting building societies before National Risk losing bonuses of between £500 and £1,000, but in the space of one to two years they could recoup that amount and more by switching to a cheaper building society or direct mortgage lender.

On a repayment mortgage of £50,000 a year, for example, a Nationwide borrower will pay £319.06 a month from September 1. At the Halifax, the same mortgage would cost £331.02 — an excess of £11.96, or £143.52 over the year. On a £20,000 mortgage, the difference would be £35.58 a month, or £426.56 a year.

On interest-only mortgages, the difference can be even greater. Nationwide borrowers with mortgages of £50,000 will be £18.97 a month — or

£227.64 a year — better off than a Halifax borrower. On a £120,000 interest-only mortgage the difference is £48.13 a month, or £577.56 a year.

But for the best standard variable mortgage rates borrowers should pick up the telephone. Direct lenders are now undercutting their rivals, and sometimes colleagues, by up to 1 per cent.

Bradford & Bingley Mortgages Direct holds the lowest rate at present, charging 5.99 per cent on loans up to 75 per cent of the property value. The deal comes with a £250 rebate and six months free accident, sickness and unemployment insurance. Direct Line weighs in at 6.05 per cent on 90 per cent mortgages. It also promises to waive mortgage indemnity premium and refund valuation fees.

Borrowers who need a 95 per cent advance should consider Legal & General Mortgage Services, which offers a variable rate of 6.24 per cent, free valuation and £400 rebate for legal costs.

Newcastle Building Society will withdraw its 6 per cent cashback offer on Monday and replace it with a mortgage which offers a cash bonus of 5 per cent. The cashback will be available on Newcastle's standard variable mortgage rate of 6.99 per cent for loans between £15,000 and £250,000.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct has added a chequebook option to its 85 per cent mortgage. Borrowers can pay additional money into their mortgage account or borrow further amounts at the standard rate of 6.49 per cent. Up to 12 cheques a year can be written up to a limit of £50,000.

What you save

Payments for a standard repayment mortgage

Loan £	Mon payment £ at 6.49 per cent	Mon payment £ at 6.99 per cent	Mon saving £
30,000	186.68	194.45	7.77
40,000	251.90	259.57	11.96
50,000	319.06	331.02	15.70
60,000	388.76	402.48	19.24
70,000	454.87	473.91	22.66
80,000	522.69	545.35	26.02
90,000	590.73	616.80	29.33
100,000	659.51	688.24	35.88
120,000	795.25	831.13	43.13

Payments for an interest-only mortgage

Loan £	Mon payment £ at 6.49 per cent	Mon payment £ at 6.99 per cent	Mon saving £
30,000	137.52	148.55	10.63
40,000	182.00	208.80	14.80
50,000	246.08	265.05	18.97
60,000	300.17	323.30	23.13
70,000	354.25	381.55	27.30
80,000	408.33	439.80	31.47
90,000	462.42	498.05	35.63
100,000	516.50	556.30	39.80
120,000	624.67	672.80	48.13

Savers pay price for advance on home front

Ian Wylie

THE Halifax will pile on the misery for savers next Thursday when it drops an average of 0.3 per cent off savings rates.

Savers are paying a heavy price for building societies' eagerness to sustain the recovery in the housing market. But while some banks and building societies cut savings rates following June's one-quarter point cut in base rates, the Halifax has delayed any cut to coincide with its mortgage rate cut, which also takes effect on August 1.

The delay will be of little

comfort to savers. According to MoneyFacts, average savings rates of all banks and building societies are now lower than at any point since 1989, when it started to compile data. Halifax savers, however, have grounds for further complaint as next week's change will leave the society with some of the worst rates on the high street.

A deposit of £500 or more in a Liquid Gold Account will, from Thursday, earn just 2.15 per cent gross — 1.72 per cent net — while a balance of more than £25,000 returns a meagre 3.40 per cent gross, 2.72 per cent net. Another converting society, the Alliance & Leices-

ter, is advertising instant-access rates of 2.7 and 3.6 per cent (2.16 and 2.88 per cent net) for the same amounts, while the Portman has a flat rate of 4.80 per cent gross — 3.84 per cent net.

The Nationwide currently offers 2.8 per cent gross (2.24 per cent net) on balances of £500, but the society hinted this week that savers should brace themselves for a fall in September.

Halifax savers will also look less than competitive from next week. The society will pay just 5.45 per cent, while the Alliance & Leicester pays 6.70 per cent and the Coventry 6.90 per cent. The Halifax dis-

misses suggestions that it is exploiting savers reluctant to risk their share bonuses by jumping ship before the society floats.

Cheltenham & Gloucester, a former society which was also accused of short-changing savers in the run-up to becoming part of Lloyds Bank, will open its door to small savers from August by reducing to £100 the minimum required to open any of three of its savings accounts. The minimum opening balance on the Cheltenham Gold account before conversion was £1,000, for the London Account £2,500 and for the 90-Day account £10,000.

Birmingham Midshires has

a new 30-day postal account offering rates of up to 5.9 per cent gross, 4.72 per cent net. First Class 30 also pays a 0.50 per cent gross bonus if capital is left untouched for 12 months, with a minimum deposit of £10,000.

Barclays has a new equity-linked savings bond which it says will guarantee a return of at least 30 per cent gross. The five-year bond has a minimum investment of £2,000. On maturity, Barclays will pay a return equal to the growth in the FT-SE 100 index over the period, or 30 per cent of the initial investment.

Leeds and Holbeck has two new five-year bonds, a share-

linked bond and an escalator bond. The bond is tied to the FT-SE 100 index, but the society guarantees a minimum return of 25 per cent. Minimum investment is £2,500.

The escalator bond, with a minimum investment of £5,000, increases the bond's fixed rate of return annually. Interest can be paid monthly or annually; monthly interest starts at 5.95 per cent gross, 4.80 per cent net.

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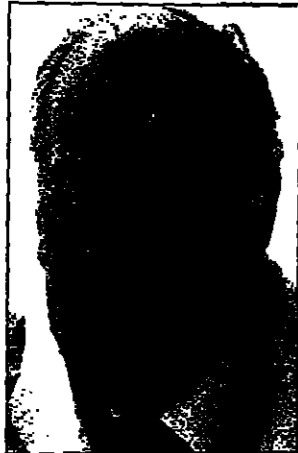
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Mauled... Public Utilities Reform Group 'fat cat' protesters (right) made Sir Desmond Pither (above) their prime target



One third of shareholders oppose United Utilities 'fat cats' salary scheme

Bosses quash pay revolt

David Ward and Simon Beavis

UNITED UTILITIES weathered an unprecedented shareholder revolt yesterday to win backing for a controversial executive pay scheme which could see directors' salaries increase by 87 per cent.

Directors had spent the previous week lobbying the biggest shareholders to ensure that the incentive scheme was not kicked out at the meeting. But the board of the company — which comprises North West Water and the electricity company, Norweb — was still forced to put the new scheme to a poll at the AGM, after small shareholders rejected it.

Company they would have to agree to higher boardroom pay. Sir Desmond, who refused to be interviewed after the meeting, dismissed the title of "King of the Fat Cats" as "offensive cheap journalism" and claimed the Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) would set very high targets.

LTIP is based on overlapping three-year performance cycles, with rewards offered in a mix of cash and shares. Brian Staples, the chief executive who earns a basic £300,000, said at a press briefing that he believed he was worth every penny of what he earned, "or most of it".

He would welcome a rational debate about the proper level of pay for an executive running a company like UU. "You may regard me as a fat cat but I have worked all my life to acquire the skills and ability to become a chief executive of a FTSE company."

Under the Hyder scheme, directors will get no bonus unless the company reaches 125th position in the FTSE top 250 in three years against its current position at 140th. If the company gets to 62nd position or above, they may receive 60 per cent of their basic salary.

Psion terminates talks with Amstrad

Ian King

ATTEMPTS by Psion, the handheld electronic organiser group, to buy Amstrad, Alan Sugar's electronics empire, collapsed in acrimony last night when Psion refused to meet Amstrad's asking price.

£80 million from the deal. In a statement issued 10 minutes before the market closed, Psion said discussions with Amstrad had been "terminated", adding that it "had not been possible to reach agreement" on the price at which an offer could be made.

Shares of Amstrad, a 1980s high-flyer, crashed 28p to 160p — against the 200p at which Psion's original offer was pitched — on the news. Shares of Tottenham Hotspur, the Premier League football club chaired by Mr Sugar, which could have expected to benefit

from the extra funds available to the Hackney-born tycoon, slidded 15p to 425p. It is understood that Psion decided against raising its offer for Amstrad after a day-long meeting at which alternative strategies were discussed. Sources on the Psion side accused Amstrad of attempting to force it into an early deal by leaking details of earlier talks to the press.

Sources on the Amstrad side hit back at once, accusing David Potter, Psion's chairman and chief executive, of "botting out" when "he realised Amstrad was too big for his company to swallow". A Psion advisor said: "Psion doesn't waste its time on frivolous discussions. This isn't a disaster, it's just that this was not a time when Psion was ready to go with this deal."

BAA plans rail links between Heathrow and North-west

Keith Harper Transport Editor

DRAMATIC plans to make Heathrow the hub for rail connections to Birmingham and Manchester, and limit the need for domestic air travel are being prepared by BAA, the former British Airports Authority, as evidence to the Terminal 5 inquiry.

Now that it owns the Heathrow Express project, the proposed 16-minute fast rail link from central London to the airport, due to open in 1998, BAA is seeking to extend the line through Terminal 5, and then on to Reading and the West. It wants to prove to the inquiry that increased surface access to Heathrow, the busiest international airport on the world, would diminish the need for internal landings at Heathrow. It is also seeking to reduce car congestion at the airport and raise public transport use to 50 per cent.

Lloyds TSB set to appoint Pitman

Sarah Whitebloom

SIR BRIAN PITMAN, chief executive of Lloyds TSB, was last night tipped strongly to emerge as chairman of the bank after the incumbent, Sir Robin Ibs, said an announcement over the succession would be made in about two months.

But there is a powerful school of thought which believes Mr Moore, 59 — who was seated at the very end of the table — should take up the reins for a period, allowing Mr Ellwood time to gain more experience. It is only six months since Lloyds acquired TSB.

Farms and factories put brake on growth

Abbie Rumbold and Larry Elliott

THE Government's upbeat forecast of economic growth this year appeared to be in doubt last night after a combination of mad cow disease and sluggish manufacturing hit Britain's output in the second quarter of the year.

A sharp fall of up to 10 per cent in gross internal output caused by the BSE inspired cull of cattle, was one factor limiting economic expansion to 0.4 per cent for the third successive quarter. It leaves the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, needing a strong burst of activity in the second half of the year if the economy is to hit the forecast for growth of 2.5 per cent in 1996, which was made less than a month ago.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that output in the second quarter was only 1.8 per cent higher than a year earlier — the slowest rate for more than three years. Growth will now need to speed up to more than 1 per cent in both the third and fourth quarters in order to fulfil the Chancellor's prediction.

Price maintenance on medicines under threat

Lisa Buckingham

PRICE maintenance on some over-the-counter medicines, ranging from painkillers and indigestion remedies to health food products, looked further under threat yesterday as the Office of Fair Trading decided to widen its investigation of the issue.

Supermarkets group Asda has been challenging price maintenance on medicines — as it did with books — by cutting the price of items such as Asprin, successfully challenged by the drug manufacturer Whitehall Laboratories. Earlier this week Asda removed Seven Seas cod liver oil from its shelves, claiming it was poor value for money at £3.99.

The truth about life at the Treasury

Running the economy isn't all fun, says LARRY ELLIOTT of a new survey

DESPITE skimming the cream from Britain's top universities, the Treasury is just like any other workplace in Britain. It transpired yesterday. The elite civil servants who run the economy like their jobs, enjoy working with their mates — but hate the bosses.

respondents to the survey thought the Treasury was highly regarded by its own ministers, and this dropped to 40 per cent when the civil servants were asked whether the City viewed them favourably. After the pasting the department has had in the press, just one in five think the media loves them.

Re-organisation in 1994 involved restructuring the Treasury's departments into new directorates, a thinning out of top grades, a reduction in staff and the introduction of Performance Related Pay.

Saturday Notebook

Who will ride the black horse next?



Alex Brummer

OF ALL the UK's financial service providers, Lloyds TSB deserves plaudits for clear strategic thinking. Its decision to swoop on Britain's best-run building society, Cheltenham & Gloucester, at a time when building society mergers and conversions had scarcely been considered, was a coup, while the TSB takeover had the virtue of moving the group into a different, less up-market sector of financial services.

spite his entrepreneurial skills, Sugar has always been a notoriously difficult person to do a deal with. He was always likely to complain that Psion — technically a smaller company — was seeking a deal on the cheap.

However, the worst outcome from this aborted takeover is the bitter public row which appeared to be developing last night, with each side accusing the other of bad faith.

This is where Anglo-Saxon-style takeover capitalism goes off the rails. While the two sides quarrel about who is to blame for the failure to agree financial terms, the industrial advantages of the deal are forgotten and the chances of a trade alliance — instead of full takeover — presumably fall apart too.

As market leader in the hand-held computer market, Psion needs a better telecom technology, which Amstrad has. Nokia of Finland is already testing some of the new computer/phone technology which Psion-Amstrad has in its sights. If it would be tragic if Psion found itself stranded.

Honest Ken

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, has set an excellent precedent with his decision to publish the conclusions of the IMF's regular review of the UK economy. "Article IV consultations" have been an important part of the IMF's work since its inception some 50 years ago, although they have been beefed up in recent years as surveillance work on the larger industrial economies has intensified.

The current Chancellor has been at the cutting edge of making the economic policy-making process more transparent with the publication of minutes of the Bank/Treasury monthly meetings, a more open period of preparation for annual budgets and now the release of the IMF reports; it is to be hoped that his successors at Number 11 will follow the precedent.

Of course the IMF is not that unhelpful to the Chancellor. Firstly, it finds economic prospects in the UK favourable, and in the prospect of a further decline in unemployment. Growth is likely to reach 3 per cent, with the risks on the upside.

That supports the Government's "you have never had it so good (at least for the last year)" claims. Secondly, the Chancellor has a new stick to beat spending ministers over the head with as the budget focuses on public expenditure.

The IMF takes a robust line: the public sector borrowing requirement has veered off its intended track and, if spending is to be brought back under control, the cuts must come from current outlays, not capital budgets.

Britain, in the IMF view, cannot postpone capital spending without endangering longer-term prospects for the economy.

What the Chancellor may find more inhibiting is the recognition by the IMF that interest rates, Mr Clarke's flexible friend in the run-up to the election, might have to rise to choke off inflationary risks, should the recovery become too strong.

This is the kind of argument that the Governor, Eddie George, has been making at recent Bank/Treasury meetings, which is all the more reason to applaud the release and to hope that it persuades other countries to take a less secretive approach to economic management.

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The truth about life at the Treasury

Running the economy isn't all fun, says LARRY ELLIOTT of a new survey

DESPITE skimming the cream from Britain's top universities, the Treasury is just like any other workplace in Britain. It transpired yesterday. The elite civil servants who run the economy like their jobs, enjoy working with their mates — but hate the bosses.

Morale at the hub of the Civil Service has improved markedly as members of the Government's Black Wednesday humiliation

fade, but Kenneth Clarke's "kids" are scathing about the quality of leadership offered by Treasury mandarins. Although they are happy with the shake-up of the Whitehall machine two years ago, the economists, administrators and back-up staff at Great George Street feel their efforts go sadly unappreciated by the world outside. Only 62 per cent of the 605 respondents to the survey thought the Treasury was highly regarded by its own ministers, and this dropped to 40 per cent when the civil servants were asked whether the City viewed them favourably.

After the pasting the department has had in the press, just one in five think the media loves them.

Re-organisation in 1994 involved restructuring the Treasury's departments into new directorates, a thinning out of top grades, a reduction in staff and the introduction of Performance Related Pay.

According to the survey, three-quarters of the staff think their own team is well managed, but only 25 per cent say the same about the Treasury overall.

Announcing the results of the survey of staff, Sir Terry Burns, the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, said he was "heartened" by the findings.

A third of the Treasury payroll has been "downsized" in the past three years, but Sir Terry rejected the idea that the results of the survey had been affected by the departure of malcontents to the City.

Price maintenance on medicines under threat

Supermarkets group Asda has been challenging price maintenance on medicines — as it did with books — by cutting the price of items such as Asprin, successfully challenged by the drug manufacturer Whitehall Laboratories. Earlier this week Asda removed Seven Seas cod liver oil from its shelves, claiming it was poor value for money at £3.99.

The OFT is known to oppose price maintenance and Mr Bridgeman said there had been many changes in the market since 1970 which could justify a return to the Restrictive Practices Court. Since the court last looked at the pricing debate local chemists had increased the proportion of their earnings from prescriptions to about 75 per cent.

The Community Pharmacy Action Group said it welcomed the OFT keeping an open mind on price maintenance.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9175	France 7.54	Italy 2.316	Singapore 2.1250
Austria 15.58	Germany 2.23	Malta 0.515	South Africa 6.74
Belgium 45.91	Greece 393.00	Netherlands 2.6075	Spain 189.25
Canada 2.8225	Hong Kong 11.75	New Zealand 2.1750	Sweden 10.02
Cyprus 0.6915	India 55.25	Norway 3.9225	Switzerland 10.02
Denmark 8.84	Ireland 0.9340	Portugal 220.7	Taiwan 124.507
Finland 0.87	Israel 4.92	Saudi Arabia 3.81	USA 1.5225

Supplied by Reuters Desk including Indian rupee and local notes above

Political
dither
Bulgaria
slides

Odd stroll
Russian
tries to co

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Politicians dither as Bulgaria slides

People are queuing for bread, talking about dictatorship and rushing to sell the national currency, writes ALISON SMALE in Sofia

WANTED: a leader and a programme to arrest Bulgaria's rapid slide into political and economic chaos. The president warns of riots spawned by hunger. Bulgarians talk of restoring a monarchy or turning to military dictatorship to replace politicians who dither over economic reform.

Pointing to the rising influence of criminals and shady businessmen, a senior western diplomat says Bulgaria could fall under the sway of gangsters well-connected to the war profiteers of neighbouring Serbia.

It sounds extreme. But so is the situation. Monthly inflation is running at 20 per cent and getting worse. Bread and electricity prices more than doubled in the past month. The value of the national currency, the lev, has plunged 50 per cent against the dollar since mid-June.

"In a crisis like this, the first thing you lose is the ability to forecast," said Ognian Minchev, a political scientist.

"If somebody knew what was going to happen in six or even three months, then the crisis would not be so deep."

Worried Bulgarians daily crowd banks to withdraw savings and convert their leva into dollars, marks and other hard currencies.

Banks are struggling to stave off insolvency. Interest rates have been set at 108 per cent in a failed attempt to stabilise the lev — with the result that loss-making state enterprises cannot afford to make loan payments.

Small shops and businesses that mushroomed after the end of Stalinism in 1989 are also failing. Most stores offering fashion or western consumer goods have slashed prices by half, but people are not buying.

Many owners mortgaged their houses to go into business. Even under communism, 50 per cent of Bulgarians owned their houses. If they now default on loans and lose those homes, a new cycle of impoverishment will start.

"I can't see how we'll get out of this," said Tsonka Belcheva, a saleswoman at a private shop in Bulgaria's second city, Plovdiv. The store sells at most one pair of children's shoes per day.

Ms Belcheva was feeling grimly lucky because she had just found two loaves in a city that has been short of bread for more than a month.

Despite tangible anger over Plovdiv's bread shortages, just 400 people showed up for a recent protest rally called by the anti-communist opposition. "This is what we Bulgarians are like — we suffer and do nothing," said Maria Va-

seva, an unemployed electronics specialist standing in a bread queue in Plovdiv.

Petko Bocharov, a popular newspaper columnist, sees an absence of a feeling of national belonging. "Movements to national heroes are defiled, or melted down for metal, he observed, and 'nobody cares, nobody cares.'"

"This, here, is a population," he said. "This is not a nation."

Parliament has shown no unity of purpose in addressing the worsening problems. The ruling Socialists (the former Communist Party) blame the anti-communist opposition. The opposition faults the government.

In the 1994 election, Premier Zhan Videnov's party won a solid majority in the 240-member parliament.

That appeared at the time to be a mandate finally to push through reforms, over which politicians have been hesitating since the overthrow of the Communist dictator Todor Zhivkov in late 1989. But Mr Videnov has done almost nothing.

The Socialists, divided between Stalinists and social-

'In a crisis like this, the first thing you lose is the ability to forecast. No-one knows what will happen next'

democrats, are unable to act. The Socialist Party "is a giant rock on the road," said Mr Minchev. "You have to pass it, but it's blocking the whole road."

President Zhelev, a philosopher and former anti-Communist dissident, seems to be manoeuvring to fill the leadership vacuum — even though he is supposed to stand down when his term expires in January.

Warning of the danger of mass unrest, Mr Zhelev advocates a change in the constitution to give his mainly ceremonial post real power.

Others place hope in King Simeon, who was exiled by the Communists as a nine-year-old child in 1946 and made a triumphant return in May and June, drawing Bulgaria's biggest crowds in decades.

Despite tangible anger over Plovdiv's bread shortages, just 400 people showed up for a recent protest rally called by the anti-communist opposition. "This is what we Bulgarians are like — we suffer and do nothing," said Maria Va-

EU urges firms to join hands with voluntary sector. JOHN PALMER in Brussels reports Partnership plan to aid jobless

BUSINESS leaders are coming under increasing pressure to co-operate with European Union governments in the creation of jobs in the voluntary, or "socially useful", sector of the economy.

As fears grow of a jobless economic recovery later this year, the private sector is being encouraged to join partnership schemes with national and regional authorities across the EU to boost employment in the "social economy".

According to a European Commission study, about three million people are already working in the voluntary or "third sector" of the European economy in non-profit enterprises.

These include some 300,000 co-operatives, mutual societies and other associations, as

well as the caring services and work on the protection of the environment.

The Association for Innovative Cooperation in Europe says 13 per cent of the net new jobs created in France, Germany and the United States between 1980 and 1990 were in the non-profit sector.

The Irish government, which has taken over the presidency of the European Union, has made action on unemployment a key priority for its six-month period in office.

Ireland's finance minister, Ruairi Quinn, said this week that he would like to see both the private and public sectors co-operate in generating jobs through local employment pacts in all countries within the EU.

The Irish government wants the European Union, heads of government summit, to be held in Dublin next

December, to agree on a series of job initiatives including action on local employment pacts.

These could include partnership schemes, under which private businesses help finance new non-profit enterprises or provide management and financial expertise for socially-useful employment projects.

"We cannot afford any more ringing declarations of intent about unemployment. If we are to be credible in the eyes of the citizen, action not words must be agreed at the European Council," Mr Quinn declared.

Those who are pressing business to play a role in job creation in local communities say that firms such as Marks & Spencer, which has worked with local authorities in industrially-blighted areas of northern

France, show what can be done.

"It is in their own interest that the employers work with the wider community in tackling mass unemployment," insists, Padraig Flynn, the European social affairs commissioner.

"If we can reduce unemployment, governments can be helped to reduce their budget deficits to prepare for monetary union, which is the best insurance for the single European market."

However, moves to involve the private sector more directly in supporting socially-useful employment schemes is controversial within the business community.

The extent of the responsibilities of business in tackling unemployment in society led to some sharp exchanges between employers' leaders, European trade unions and

the EC during a recent meeting in Dublin.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) believes that the socially-useful sector is potentially very rich as a source of new jobs.

"The socially-useful sector in our economies is increasingly important," according to Peter Coldrick, an ETUC official.

"Much more work needs to be done on how to support job creation here to make up for the continuing loss of jobs in private industry not only due to recession but to technological change and corporate restructuring."

The EC is also focusing on how best to help the "alternative" economic sectors generate jobs with decent pay and conditions.

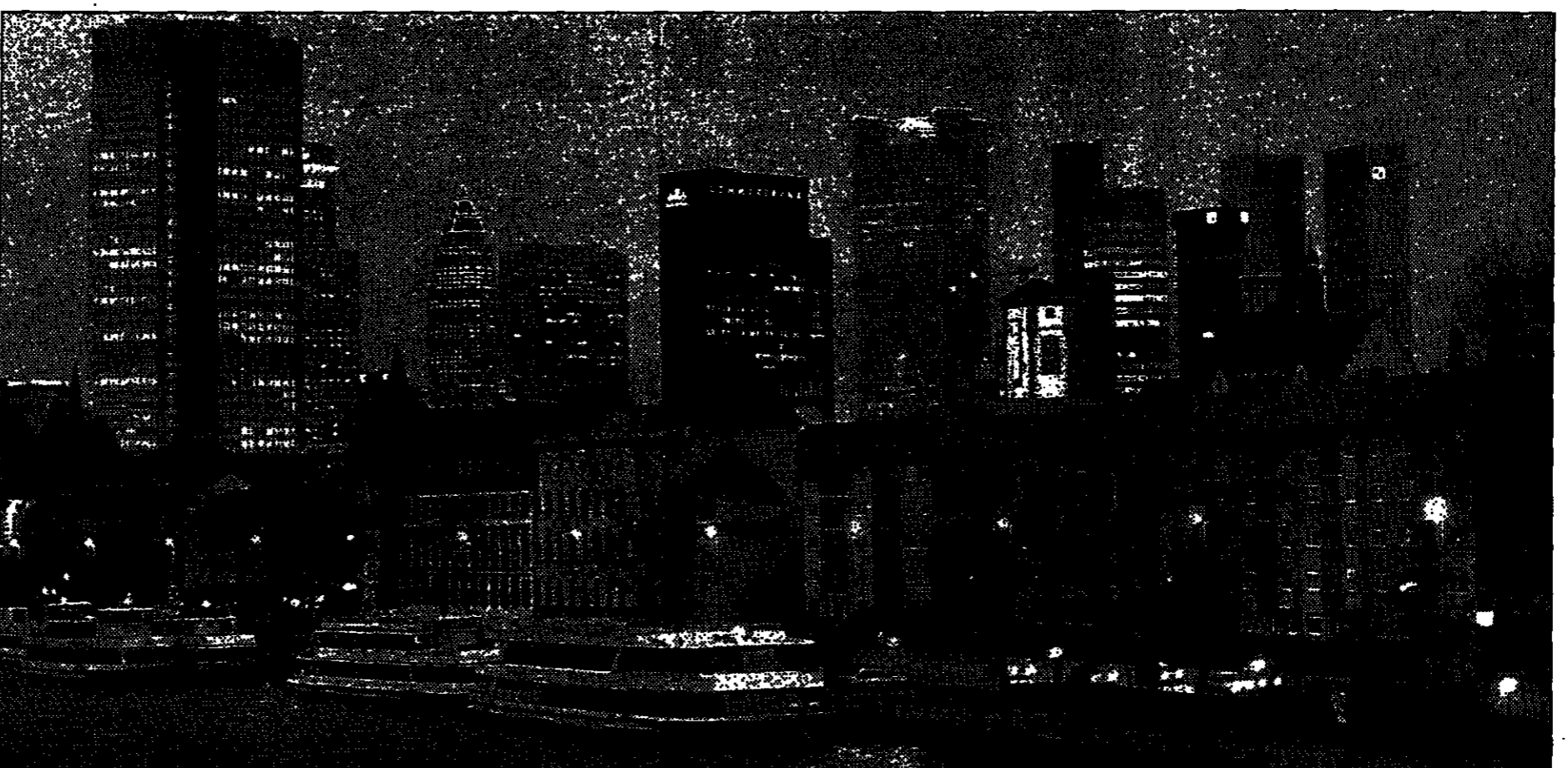
But most European industrialists insist that their responsibility is primarily to en-

sure the success of their own businesses. At the same time, they worry that this might be made more difficult by having to support social economy projects.

This view is now being seriously challenged. "I did point out in Dublin that business, by and large, is doing pretty well at the moment. Profits are high and the rate of return on invested capital is better than for decades past," Mr Flynn points out.

But, Francois Perigot, president of the EU employers' organisation, Unice, warned that business would not look very favourably at any move to introduce a backdoor "jobs tax" on the private sector.

"The best way to achieve the creation of the jobs that we all want to see is by helping European industry ensure that it is globally competitive," he said.



All lit up... Frankfurt's financial centre, seen from the River Main, is on a wave of optimism thanks to rising profits from two top banks PHOTOGRAPH: DENIS THORPE

Buoyant markets dispel German banking gloom

Financial staff

THE outlook for Germany's banking industry began to look rather brighter this week.

Yesterday, Deutsche Bank, Europe's largest, revealed a near-15 per cent surge in first-half net profits and said that full-year profits should top the 1996 total of DM2.1 billion (\$216 million).

Buoyant financial markets had helped boost both commission and trading income.

"We are confident that we shall be able to report a higher profit for the 1996 financial year than for last year," Hil-

mar Kopper, Deutsche Bank's chief executive, said.

"Here, our business abroad will again make an important contribution."

The results confirm a trend to strong earnings growth. Earlier this week, Commerzbank, Germany's third-largest bank, reported an improvement in operating profits of 49 per cent, taking the total to DM1.59 billion. Commerzbank said that it was hard to predict the outcome for the year because of the difficult banking environment but said it was confident that its cost-cutting measures would "enable us to continue our path of earnings-orientated growth".

Deutsche said income growth was driven by a 39.5 per cent rise in net commission income, to DM3.50 billion, while trading profits rose 59.8 per cent to DM1.38 billion.

Trading income from bond and share dealing rose 61 per cent to DM230 million, while currency and metals dealing profits rose a more modest 17.5 per cent to DM314 million.

However, provisions against bad debt surged 81 per cent to DM218 million. Analysts said this reflected Deutsche Bank's DM550 million contribution to the rescue of engineering firm Kloeckner-

Humboldt-Deutz in June. Commerzbank also reported higher provisions, up from DM315 million to DM345 million.

Commerzbank's results were at the top end of forecasters' expectations. Analysts also welcomed the Deutsche results, arguing that its shares should benefit from its drive to reorganise and grow.

With its strong expansion of investment banking, recent management revamp and pledge to offload non-performing industrial holdings, Deutsche was preparing for inevitable change in the banking sector, after European economic and monetary union.

"Deutsche is clearly the best of the bunch today, from a strategic point of view," said Stefan Ermisch, banking analyst at Trimbauer & Burkhart.

Administrative expenses grew 7.7 per cent to DM7.02 billion, allaying fears that it was throwing too much

money at its London-based investment banking arm, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Adjusted for the effect of exchange rate changes and first-time consolidations, the rise was 1.6 per cent. But analysts said they expected the increase in costs to accelerate.

Odd strokes as Russian taxman tries to collect

David Hearst in Moscow

RUSSIAN tax inspectors are considering letting prime defaulters off their taxes in kind rather than in cash.

So oil companies would pay in oil or shirtmakers in shirts. Other ideas include slipping a weight allowance on all goods brought in over Russia's borders, charging the carrier for excess weight, taxing foreign cars and alcohol production.

Such bizarre ideas, as the cash-strapped government searches for revenue, have been prompted by the International Monetary Fund. Its latest mission returned to Washington this week, recommending delay of this month's \$330 million (\$220 million) tranche of its \$10.2 billion loan until the Russian government sorts out its revenue crisis.

The reason is simple. No-one in Russia is paying their taxes. The latest reason was the fear of a return of the communists to power.

There are many ways of dodging tax, including working at one company for dollars and registering at another for a small rouble salary.

Most tax collection is from businesses, who are already taxed so highly that many say they are forced to cheat.

Individuals are less easy to track down. Monthly tax collec-

tions, which had slipped to 18 trillion roubles (\$2.4 billion) in the first half of the year, will have to increase by 40 per cent in the second just to catch up.

As a result the budget deficit is ballooning out of control. The conditions of the three-year IMF loan were never fully made public, but there was a public commitment to keep the budget deficit down to 4 per cent of gross domestic product. If local budget deficits are included the public deficit is over 11 per cent at the moment.

Stopping the pay-outs is not an alternative, with miners, soldiers, pensioners, students all demanding that President Boris Yeltsin makes good the many pre-election promises he made them. The wages arrears debt to workers in state industries is 29 trillion roubles (\$4 billion).

Cash-strapped industry is already paying suppliers in barter arrangements, which lower the cost of the goods being sold. One incentive to better tax collection is a decree that Mr Yeltsin signed entitling the tax police to half of any additional revenues they collect from an audit.

Yevgeny Misutin, tax manager of Price Waterhouse, told the Moscow Times: "But if the President is trying to improve collections, and giving 50 per cent to the tax inspector, how are they going to reduce the deficit?"

Alcohol ruling proves hard to swallow

Finnish cabinet resists EU call for more imports, says JON HENLEY

THE Finnish government, to the delight of its famously hard-drinking but sorely hard-done-by citizens, has a serious alcohol problem.

Finance minister Sanli Niinisto admitted this week he may have difficulty balancing the country's 1997 budget if the European Commission continues to insist that Finland lift its tough restrictions on personal alcohol imports.

If the curbs are eased, Mr Niinisto argues, Finland's punitive alcohol duties — which account for 9 per cent of all tax revenue — will almost certainly have to be lowered, significantly denting government income.

"The sum could run into billions of markka," he

said. "Filling the gap would be a very major task." (The markka is worth about 17p.)

Dedicated Finnish drinkers, thousands of whom travel daily to neighbouring Sweden on "booze cruises" to take advantage of duty-free prices, are allowed to import 15 litres of beer, five litres of wine and one litre of spirits from any EU country without paying extra tax.

The Commission wants those limits raised to 30 litres, 18 litres and three litres respectively by January, and brought fully in line with the rest of the EU by 1999.

"That would be almost bound to prompt a major reduction in alcohol taxes

— and therefore alcohol prices — in Finland," one of the countries leading daily newspapers, Iltasanomat, said gloomily.

"Prices would have to be cut to near Danish or German levels to prevent a veritable stampede to the continent."

It is a bitter pill for the Finnish government to swallow, but one Finland's oppressed boozers would guzzle happily.

They currently pay an extra 22-50 in duty on every litre of wine they buy, while the price of a standard bottle of spirits can be 87 per cent pure tax.

By contrast, seven of the EU's 15 member states charge no fixed tax on wine at all, and the average duty on a bottle of spirits is about half Finland's rate.

Pruning booze prices to Danish levels — a fall of about 30 per cent — would

nearly halve alcohol tax revenue, Iltasanomat estimated, while a reduction to German levels would cut revenues by 85 per cent.

But the Finnish government has not given up yet. Talks are under way with the Commission, and the case may yet end up in the European Court of Justice.

Excise-duty alcohol prices, the government has repeatedly argued, are needed to protect the Finns from themselves. Lowering them to the same level as Germany could produce a 100 per cent increase in consumption, it claims, with some gruesome social consequences.

"If we have to change, it must be done gradually," Mr Niinisto said. "Taxes and booze are such a familiar combination for Finns that is very hard to estimate the behavioural impact of such changes."



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Finance Guardian

No-one prospered more than the Suharto clan as Indonesia escaped from grinding poverty. Eat noodles, smoke a kretek, buy a mobile phone or a Mercedes, and, reports PAUL HUNT in Jakarta, you contribute to . . .

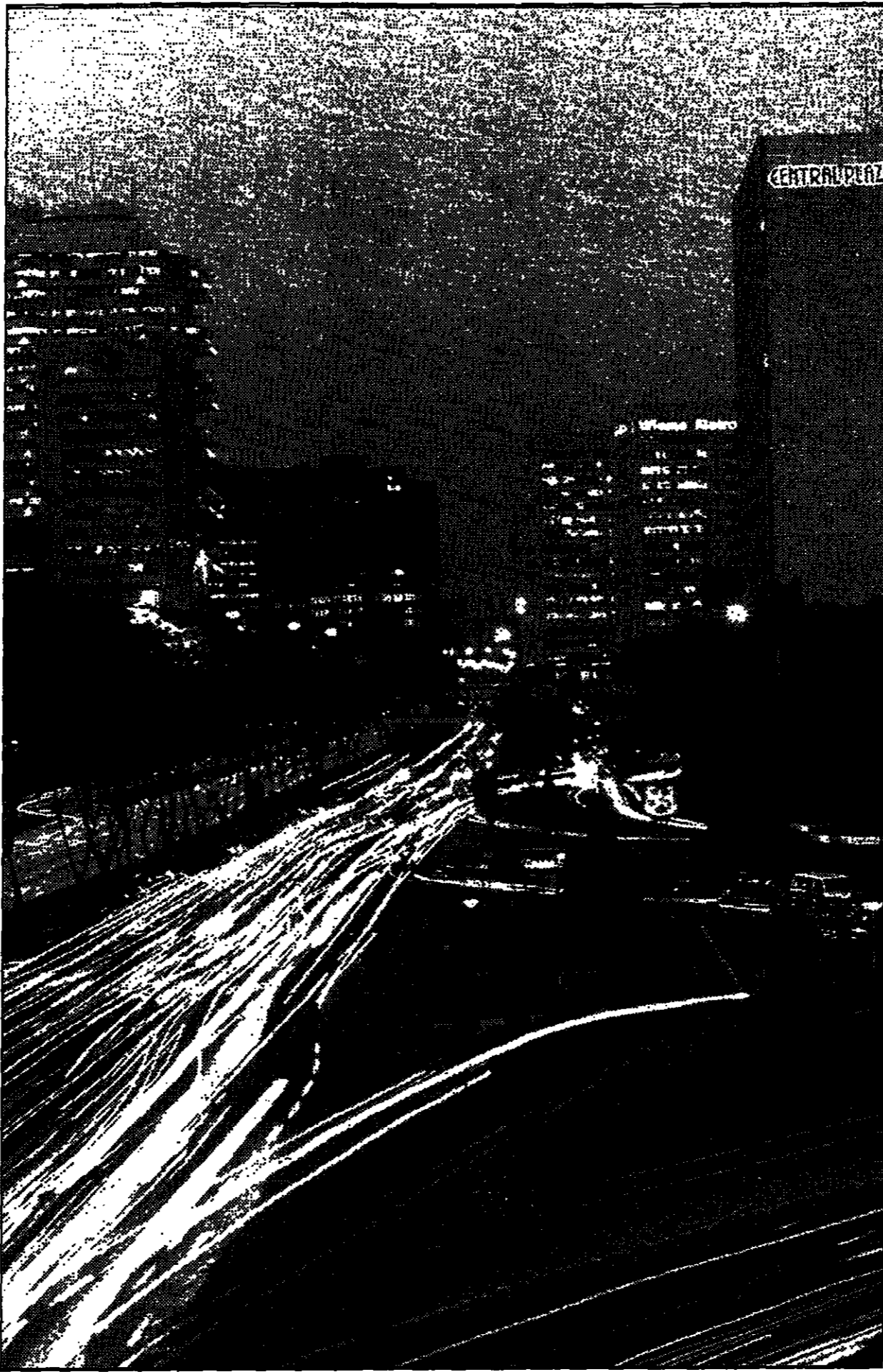
A First Family affair

FOUR government ministers mingled in a crowd of thousands at the launch in Jakarta of the Cahya and Ramayana epic whose names now adorn two sleek saloon cars. Organisers laid on statuette models, traditional wayang puppet shows, dancers in old Javanese costume and a banquet for the hungry. Yet the host of the party, Bambang Trihatmodjo, second son of Indonesia's President Suharto, hardly cracked a smile.

Local businessmen know 42-year-old Bambang as a reticent person, short of social confidence, who keeps his feelings to himself. But it was tempting to link his dour demeanour on this occasion to the car wars with his siblings that threaten the short-term profits of his enterprise. Bambang is sinking a cool billion dollars into making the two saloons in a joint venture with South Korea's Hyundai for a cost to customers of between US\$17,000 (£10,900) and \$20,000. Unfortunately his

flamboyant younger brother, Hutomo Mandala Putra, generally known as Tommy, pulled a fast one on him. A decree issued by President Suharto in February allows 33-year-old Tommy to market a "national car" made entirely in South Korea without paying the usual duties on imported parts or an onerous 35 per cent luxury tax that hits other producers. As a result, the Timur, as Tommy's car is named, will hit the market in three months' time, selling for about half the cost of his brother's.

The ruling stirred a mixture of derision and indignation. "An example of nepotism and irrational decision-making on a grand scale," wrote David Roche of Independent Strategy, echoing a sentiment heard widely around the streets and offices of Jakarta. "It's a joke. They import a totally built-up car, sell it locally and pocket the tax break," fumed an Indonesian business consultant. Far more is at stake than Bambang's or Tommy's profit margins. The saga of the



Businessmen in downtown Jakarta skyscrapers are keenly conscious of the succession issue after the announcement that President Suharto needed medical checks jolted the stock exchanges.
Photographic: SERGIO DORANTES and THERY ORBAN



'Capital inflows quickly could become capital outflows, putting pressure on the economy' — World Bank report

national car has turned an unflattering spotlight on affairs at the heart of a family dynasty which now shapes the fate of 190 million people in the world's fourth most populous state, sprawling across 13,000 islands, two time zones and a vast wealth of natural resources. The controversy could hardly have surfaced at a more sensitive time. An announcement this month that President Suharto would fly to Europe for medical checks sufficed to drop the Jakarta stock exchange 2.3 per cent, a sobering jolt for a market that had been top of the pops

among emerging markets over much of the past six months. The death in April of his wife of 48 years and closest confidante only underlined his own advancing years. After three decades of iron-fisted rule, trading democracy for order and economic development, President Suharto, in the time-honoured tradition of Javanese monarchs, shows no sign of surrendering power or revealing who he would pick as his heir should circumstances force him to do so. "People are jittery," observes Rizal Ramli, an economist and consultant. "Power has increasingly been centralised around one man, so the possibility of change creates a lot of uncertainty."

The onward domestic flight you take is likely to be on the airline owned by Tommy, or the cab you take into the city may belong to eldest daughter Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, known as Mbak (sister) Tutut. The toll road that takes you into the city was built by her. Eat noodles or drink Jakarta's bottled water, smoke a kretek (Indonesia's clove cigarette), buy a mobile phone or a Mercedes, watch three of the five television channels, stay in Jakarta's Grand Hyatt, one of its smartest hotels, or shop in the mall downstairs and you are contributing in some way to a business either owned by the family or by one of a tiny group of Chinese business magnates whose conglomerates are entwined with theirs. Starting out from a modest trading company set up by Bambang 15 years or so ago, the children now market crude oil, run gas pipelines, ship liquefied natural gas and build billion-dollar petrochemical plants. F-16 fighters purchased from the US are said to have come in through one family enterprise, the export of birds' nests for Chinese soup go out through another.

Many of the family's companies, particularly Bambang's, are professionally managed, market analysts say, but the family connection is a crucial advantage. Two years ago, an executive order transferred four satellites and a communications network, with a probable value of several hundred million dollars, from state ownership to Satelindo, a company majority owned by Bambang, apparently at no cost to the recipient. "Are they the richest people in the world? No-one knows," concludes a financial analyst. One estimate suggests they now control assets of \$5

billion, another attributed to the CIA suggests the figure should be \$30 billion. "It wouldn't surprise me," the analyst shrugs. Local researchers tracing the confusing web of interests believe Bambang is involved in at least 140 companies with net worth of \$1.2 billion and Tutut has links to 100 companies with even higher net worth of \$2 billion. Tommy came in a distant third, linked to 70 companies with net worth of some \$600 million. The children's dazzling business successes are a political headache. An acute difficulty confronting Mr Suharto as he ponders the possible candidates to succeed him, is finding anyone sufficiently loyal and forceful to protect the family's interests from the pressures most Indonesians predict will break them up or at least redistribute big chunks.

An outpouring of popular support for ex-president Sukarno's daughter Megawati in recent weeks starkly underlines the problem. Her modest manners and unpretentious style is meat and drink to struggling workers and ambitious middle classes, weary of pervasive corruption and nursing long-smouldering resentment over the privileges of the children. Heavy-handed military measures against Megawati have badly backfired to enhance her popularity. "Never before in the history of the New Order has there been such widespread support for an opposition figure," warns economic analyst Rizal Ramli. Local and foreign businessmen are now keenly conscious that the government's handling of this issue casts a shadow over the performance of the economy. Sitting in Jakarta skyscrapers a few miles from the action, bankers and businessmen were unaware of the hearing administered by troops to pro-Megawati demonstrators earlier this month. A prompt dip on the Jakarta stock exchange, however, left no doubt of the impact of CNN film of the event on investors overseas.

Growing dependence on foreign funds to finance Indonesia's deficits leaves the economy more vulnerable to investor confidence than even a decade ago. "Capital inflows quickly could become capital

outflows, putting pressure on the economy," the latest World Bank report drily observes. If Mr Suharto and his children are sensitive to such concerns, they do not much show it. Far from slowing down their accumulation of projects and businesses, the children appear to be accelerating it, often with little obvious regard for the economic merits.

And popular dissent on the streets of Indonesian cities would matter less to the business community if it were not for the hereditary privileges, to no avail. Tutut also reportedly jumped into the fray, pitching for a car venture of her own. Indonesia would soon have six national cars, local wags joked, one for each of Mr Suharto's offspring.

THE matter is vastly unamusing for Japanese car manufacturers who hitherto have dominated the market and American manufacturers trying to break into it. The Japanese, in particular, may have thought the billion dollars' worth of annual aid that their country gives might have earned a more sympathetic hearing. Both are threatening to fight the case in the World Trade Organisation. The issue is even less amusing for Indonesians, particularly troubled by the lack of sound advice going up to the president and the controversial decisions coming down from him. "We feel what is at stake is our national survival. The format of the New Order designed to answer the challenges of the 1960s and 1970s is no longer capable of dealing with challenges ahead," asserts political scientist Dewi Fortuna Anwar. "President Suharto has done something quite spectacular. It is unfortunate his rather shortsighted favours for immediate family members could actually undermine the good things he has done."

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HANGING in the balance are the economic and social achievements on which Mr Suharto has staked his claim to a place in history. Out of the political chaos and decay bequeathed by Sukarno, the charismatic first president of independent Indonesia he forced out of power, Mr Suharto has forged the basis of a prosperous future.

In the last 30 years, Indonesia has struggled out of grinding poverty into the lower ranks of the world's middle-income countries, notching up enviable growth and seemingly destined for ever more spectacular results. "The average Indonesian knows he is better off than he was five years ago and stands to be better off in five years' time," notes ING Barings' Bill Rolph. Asia's biggest debtor it may be, with more than \$100 billion in outstanding loans, yet startlingly good results in the 1995/6 financial year have eased World Bank unease over mounting trade deficits and looming inflation and in-

'Are they the richest people in the world? No-one knows. It wouldn't surprise me' — financial analyst

Quick Crossword No. 8189

Solution No. 8188

Across

1 Vicinity (13)
8 Buffalo (7)
9 Place in Nigeria or Algarve (5)
10 Wicked ghosts (4)
11 Holder of stocks and shares (8)
13 Astute (5)
14 Pioneer of hypnotism (8)
17 Arid play (anag) — gem cutter (8)
19 Summons, maybe holy (4)
21 Concerning (5)
22 Fish often tinned (7)
24 Salad dish (3,10)

Down

1 Fruit with hard shell (3)
2 Plunge into liquid (7)

3 Bent pin — pirate (4)
4 Rectangular (5)
5 Delivered from worry or duty (8)
6 Have an obligation, should (5)
7 Jerboa (6,3)
10 Swing as a pendulum (9)
12 Blood-feud (8)
18 Drink, usually dry (7)

16 Wall-painting (6)
18 Time (5)
20 Roughage (4)
23 First Lady? (3)

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